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Assembly Proceedings

Official Report

Bengal Legislative Assembly

Fourteenth Session, 1942

The 15th, 17th, 18th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd
September, 1942

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
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GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

His Excellency Sir JOHN ARTHUR HERBERT, G.C.I.E.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

(1) The Hon'ble Mr. ABUL KASEM FAZLUL HUQ, in charge of the Home and Publicity Departments.

(2) The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE, in charge of the Finance Department.

(3) The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca, in charge of the Departments of Agriculture and Industries, also Commerce and Labour.

(4) The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU, in charge of the Department of Public Health and Local Self-Government.

(5) The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM, in charge of the Education Department.

(6) The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE, in charge of the Revenue Department and of the Judicial and Legislative Departments.

(7) The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN, in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department.

(8) The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED, in charge of the Department of Communications and Works.

(9) The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN, in charge of the Forests and Excise Department.

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SPEAKER.

Vacant.

DEPUTY SPEAKER.

SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY, Esq.

SECRETARY.

K. ALI AFZAL, Esq., Barrister-at-law.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

A

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md. [Narayanganj East (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza. [Tangail West (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Hafiz Mia, Mr. [Kurigram South (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Hakeem, Mr. [Khulna (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Hakim, Maulvi. [Mymensingh West (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md. [Munshiganj (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M. [Pabna West (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Hamid Shah, Maulvi. [Kishoreganj North (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Jabbar, Maulvi. [Dinajpur Central East (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Jabbar Palwan, Mr. Md. [Jamalpur North (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Kader, Mr. [Patuakhali South (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Karim, Mr. [Jamalpur *cum* Muktagacha (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Latif Biswas, Maulvi. [Manikganj West (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Majid, Maulvi. [Mymensingh North (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed. [Noakhali South (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Motaleb Malik, Dr. [Nadia East (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Wahab Khan, Mr. [Bakarganj West (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Wahed, Maulvi. [Mymensingh East (Muhammadan).]

Abdulla-Al Mahmood, Mr. [Serajganj North (Muhammadan).]

Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur, A. F. M. [24-Parganas North-East (Muhammadan).]

Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr. (Muslim Chamber of Commerce.)

Abdur Rasheed, Maulvi Md. [Birbhum (Muhammadan).]

Abdur Raschid Mahmood, Mr. [Serajganj North (Muhammadan).]

Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Maulvi S. [Howrah (Muhammadan).]

Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Shah. [Rangpur South (Muhammadan).]

Abdur Razzak, Maulvi. [Feni (Muhammadan).]

Abdus Shaheed, Maulvi Md. [Dacca North Central (Muhammadan).]

Abidur Reza Chowdhury, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Chandpur West (Muhammadan).]

Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi. [Gaibandha North (Muhammadan).]

Abul Fazl, Mr. Muhammad [Madaripur West (Muhammadan).]

Abul Hashim, Maulvi. [Burdwan (Muhammadan).]

Abul Hosain Ahmed, Mr. [Netrokona North (Muhammadan).]

Abul Masud, Maulvi Kazi. [Nator (Muhammadan).]

Abul Quasem, Maulvi. [Hooghly (Muhammadan).]

Acharyya Choudhury, Maharaja Sashi Kanta, of Muktagacha, Mymensingh. (Dacca Landholders.)

Aftab Ali, Mr. (Water Transport Trade Union.)

Ahmed Ali Enayetpuri, Khan Bahadur Maulana. [Jhenidah (Muhammadan).]

Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi. [Goalundo (Muhammadan).]

Ahmed Hosain, Mr. [Gaibandha South (Muhammadan).]

Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed. [Noakhali South (Muhammadan.)]

Alfazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Midnapore (Muhammadan).]

Aminullah, Khan Sahib Maulvi. [Noakhali Central (Muhammadan).]

Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md. [Rajshahi South (Muhammadan).]

Anwarul Azim, Khan Bahadur Md. [Chittagong South (Muhammadan).]

Asimuddin Ahmed, Mr. [Tippera Central (Muhammadan).]

Aulad Hossain Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Manikganj East (Muhammadan).]

Azhar Ali, Maulvi. [Pabna East (Muhammadan).]

Azizul Haque, Sir Muhammad, C.I.E., Khan Bahadur. [Nadia West (Muhammadan).]

B

Badrudduja, Mr. Syed. [Berhampore (Muhammadan.)]

Banerjee, the Hon'ble Mr. Pramatha Nath. [Burdwan North-West (General).]

Banerjee, Mr. Sibnath. [Howrah (Registered Factories).]

Banerjee, Dr. Suresh Chandra. [Calcutta and Suburbs (Registered Factories).]

Banerji, Mr. P. [24-Parganas North-West (General).]

Banerji, Mr. Satya Priya. [Rajshahi (General).]

Barat Ali, Mr. Mohammad. [Serajganj Central (Muhammadan).]

Barma, Babu Premhari. [Dinajpur (General).]

Barma, Mr. Puspajit. [Rangpur (General).]

Barman, Babu Shyama Prosad. [Dinajpur (General).]

Barman, the Hon'ble Mr. Upendra Nath. [Jalpaiguri *cum* Siliguri (General).]

Basu, Mr. Jatindra Nath. [Calcutta North (General).]

Basu, the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar. [Calcutta East (General).]

Bell-Hart, Miss P. B. (Anglo-Indian Constituency.)

Bhowmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra. [Midnapore East (General).]

Birkmyre, Sir Henry, Bart. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah (European).]

Biswas, Babu Lakshmi Narayan. [Nadia (General).]

Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal. [Jessore (General).]

Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath. [Faridpur (General).]

Bose, Mr. Sarat Chandra [Calcutta South (General).]

C

Chakrabarty, Mr. Jatindra Nath. [Rangpur (General).]

Chakrabarty, Babu Narendra Narayan. [Bogra *cum* Pabna (General).]

Chattopadhyay, Mr. Haripada. [Nadia (General).]

Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath. [24-Parganas Municipal (General).]

Chippendale, Mr. J. W. (Anglo-Indian.)

Clark, Mr. I. A. [Burdwan Division (European).]

D

Das, Babu Radha Nath. [Hooghly North-East (General).]

Das, Rai Sahib Anukul Chandra. [24-Parganas North-West (General).]

Das, Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan. [Murshidabad (General).]

Das, Mr. Monomohan. [Mymensingh East (General).]

Dass, Babu Debendra Nath. [Birbhum (General).]

Das Gupta, Babu Khagendra Nath. [Jalpaiguri *cum* Siliguri (General).]

Das Gupta, Dr. J. M. [Calcutta Central (General).]

Das Gupta, Srijut Narendra Nath. [Bakarganj South-West (General).]

Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath. [Tippera (General).]

Dolui, Mr. Harendra Nath. [Jhargram *cum* Ghatal (General).]

Dutt, Mr. Sukumar. [Hooghly South-West (General).]

Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira. [Calcutta General (Women).]

Dutta Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu. [Barrackpore (Registered Factories).]

E

Edbar, Mr. Upendranath. [Bakarganj South-West (General).]

Emdadul Haque, Kazi. [Kurigram North (Muhammadan).]

F

Farhad Raza Chowdhury, Mr. M. [Jangipur (Muhammadan).]

Farhat Bano Khanam, Begum. [Dacca (Muhammadan) Women.]

Fazlul Huq, the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. [Patuakhali North (Muhammadan).]

Fazlul Qadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Chittagong North-West (Muhammadan).]

Fazlur Rahman, Mr. [Jamalpur East (Muhammadan).]

Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca University.)

G

Ganguly, Mr. Pratul Chandra. [East Bengal Municipal (General).]

Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna. [Jessore (General).]

Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr. [Jamalpur West (Muhammadan).]

Gladding, Mr. D., C.I.E. [Bengal Chamber of Commerce.]

Golam Rabbani Ahammad, Maulvi. [Dinajpur Central West (Muhammadan).]

Golam Sarwar Hosaini, Mr. Shah Syed. [Ramganj *cum* Raipur (Muhammadan).]

Gomes, Mr. R. A. [Dacca Division (Indian Christian).]

Goswami, Mr. Tulsi Chandra. [Burdwan Division North Municipal (General).]

Griffiths, Mr. C. (Anglo-Indian.)

Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra. [Calcutta South Central (General).]

Gupta, Mr. J. N. [Railway Trade Union (Labour).]

Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh. [Darjeeling (General).]

Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Al-Hadj. [Madaripur East (Muhammadan).]

H

Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca. [Dacca Municipal (Muhammadan).]

Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi. [Thakurgaon (Muhammadan).]

Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib. [Kishoreganj East (Muhammadan).]

Hamilton, Mr. K. A. (Calcutta Trades Association.)

Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed. [Tangail North (Muhammadan).]

Hasanuzzaman, Khan Sahib Maulvi Md. [Tippera South (Muhammadan).]

Hashem Ali Khan, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Bakarganj North (Muhammadan).]

Hasina Murshed, Mrs., M.B.E (Parliamentary Secretary). [Calcutta (Muhammadan) Women.]

Hatemally Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi. [Pirojpur South (Muhammadan).]

Haywood, Mr. Rogers. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

Hendry, Mr. David. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F., O.B.E. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

Hodge, Mr. H. R. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

I

Idris Ahmed Mia, Mr. [Malda South (Muhammadan).]

Ispahani, Mr. M. A. H., M.B.E. [Calcutta South (Muhammadan).]

J

Jalaluddin Ahmad, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Cox's Bazar (Muhammadan).]

Jalaluddin Hashemy, Mr. Syed. [Satkhira (Muhammadan).]

Jalan, Mr. I. D. [Calcutta West (General).]

Jasimuddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib Maulvi. [24-Parganas South (Muhammadan).]

Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi. [Chandpur East (Muhammadan).]

K

Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Netrokona South (Muhammadan).]

Kazem Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawan Jah Syed. [Murshidabad South-West (Muhammadan).]

Kennedy, Mr. I. G. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)

Khaitan, Mr. Debi Prosad. (Indian Chamber of Commerce.)

Khan, Mr. Debendra Lall. [Midnapore Central (General).]

Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra. [Malda (General).]

Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath. [Dinajpur (General).]

L

Lahiri, Babu Ashutosh. [North Bengal Municipal (General).]

M

MacGregor, Mr. G. G. (Indian Tea Association.)

MacPherson, Mr. G. P. [Rajshahi Division (European).]

Mafizuddin Ahmed, Dr. [Bogra North (Muhammadan).]

Mafizuddin Ahmed, Maulvi. [Tippera North (Muhammadan).]

Mafizuddin Choudhury, Maulvi. [Balurghat (Muhammadan).]

Maguire, Mr. L. T. (Anglo-Indian.)

Mahtab, Maharajadhiraja Bahadur Uday Chand, of Burdwan. [Burdwan Central (General).]

Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari. [Midnapore South-East (General).]

Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar. [Burdwan Central (General).]

Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova. [Dacca (General) Women.]

Majumdar, Babu Jnanendra Chandra. [Mymensingh, East Rural (General).]

Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra. [Midnapore South-West (General).]

Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal. [Mymensingh West (General).]

Mandal, Mr. Banku Behari. [Burdwan North-West (General).]

Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra. [Faridpur (General).]

Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra. [Tippera (General).]

Mandal, Mr. Jogendra Nath. [Bakarganj North-East (General).]

Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad. [Midnapore Central (General).]

Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi. [Rajshahi North (Muhammadan).]

Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md. [Chittagong South Central (Muhammadan).]

Maqbul Hosain, Mr. [Tippera North-East (Muhammadan)]

Masud Ali Khan Panni, Al-Hadj Maulvi. [Tangail South (Muhammadan).]

Miles, Mr. C. W. (Indian Tea Association.)

Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur. [Bogra West (Muhammadan).]

Mohsin Ali, Mr. Md. [Meherpur (Muhammadan).]

Mookerjee, the Hon'ble Dr. Syamaprasad. (Calcutta University.)

Morgan, Mr. G., C.I.E. [Presidency Division (European).]

Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi M. [Rajshahi Central (Muhammadan).]

Mozammel Huq, Maulvi Md. [Bhola North (Muhammadan).]

Muhammad Afzal, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Syed. [Pirojpur North (Muhammadan).]

Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi. [Noakhali North (Muhammadan).]

Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi. [Bogra South (Muhammadan).]

Muhammad Israil, Maulvi. [Kishoreganj South (Muhammadan).]

Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed. [Bankura (Muhammadan).]

Muhammad Solaiman, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Barrackpore Municipal (Muhammadan).]

Mukerjea, Mr. Taraknath, M.B.E. [Burdwan Landholders' Constituency.]

Mukerji, Mr. Dhirendra Narayan. (Hooghly North-East.)

Mukherjee, Mr. B. [Colliery (Coal Mines) (Labour).]

Mukherji, Dr. H. C. [Calcutta *cum* Presidency Division (Indian Christian).]

Mukherji, Dr. Sharat Chandra. [Birbhum (General).]

Mullick, Srijut Ashutosh. [Bankura West (General).]

Mullick, Mr. Mukunda Behari. [Khulna (General).]

Mullick, Mr. Pulin Behary. [Howrah (General).]

Musharruff Hossain, Nawab, Khan Bahadur. [Jalpaiguri *cum* Darjeeling (Muhammadan).]

Mustagawsal Haque, Mr. Syed. [Bagerhat (Muhammadan).]

Mustafa Ali Dewan, Maulvi. [Brahmanbaria North (Muhammadan).]

N

Nandy, Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar. (Presidency Landholders.)

Nasarullah, Nawabzada K. [Brahmanbaria South (Muhammadan).]

Nasker, Mr. Hem Chandra. [24-Parganas South-East (General).]

Nausher Ali, Mr. Syed. [Jessore Sadar (Muhammadan).]

Nazimuddin, Khwaja Sir, K.C.I.E. [Calcutta North (Muhammadan).]

Nooruddin, Mr. K. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Municipal (Muhammadan).]

Norton, Mr. H. R., M.B.E. (Calcutta Trades Association.)

P

Pain, Mr. Barada Prosanna. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Municipal (General).]

Paul, Sir Hari Sankar. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)

Poddar, Mr. Anandilall (Marwari Association.)

Pottinger, Mr. G. U. [Chittagong Division (European).]

Powell, Mr. J. A. [Calcutta and Suburbs (European).]

Pramanik, Mr. Tarinicharan. [Malda (General).]

R

Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. M. L. [Rajshahi Central (Muhammadan).]

Raikut, Mr. Prasanna Deb. [Jalpaiguri *cum* Siliguri (General).]

Rajibuddin Tarafdar, Maulvi. [Bogra East (Muhammadan).]

Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr. [Tippera West (Muhammadan).]

Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr. [Dacca South Central (Muhammadan).]

Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra. [Mymensingh West (General).]

Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy. [Dacca East (General).]

Roy, Mr. Kamalkrishna. [Bankura East (General).]

Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar. [Dacca West (General).]

Roy, Mr. Kishori Pati. [Jhargram *cum* Ghatal (General).]

Roy, Rai Bahadur Kshirod Chandra. (Chittagong Landholders.)

Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath. [Howrah (General).]

Roy, Mr. Patiram. [Khulna (General).]

Roy, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar. (Rajshahi Landholders.)

S

Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr. [Bakarganj South (Muhammadan).]

Safiruddin Ahmed, Haji. [Rangpur North (Muhammadan).]

Sahabe Alum, Mr. Syed. [Dacca Central (Muhammadan).]

Salim, Mr. S. A. [Narayanganj North (Muhammadan).]

Sanaullah, Dr. [Chittagong North-East (Muhammadan).]

Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha. [Presidency Division Municipal (General).]

Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar. [Murshidabad (General).]

Sarker, Babu Madhusudan. [Bogra *cum* Pabna (General).]

Sen, Mr. Atul Chandra. [Dacca East (General).]

Sen, Mr. Dhirendra Nath. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)

Sen, Rai Bahadur Jogesh Chandra. [24-Parganas South-East (General).]

Sen, Babu Nagendra Nath. [Khulna (General).]

Sen Gupta, Mrs. Nellie. [Chittagong (General).]

Serajul Islam, Mr. [Bongaon (Muhammadan).]

Shahabuddin, Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E. [Narayanganj South (Muhammadan).]

Shahedali, Mr. [Matlabbazar (Muhammadan).]

Shamsuddin Ahmed, the Hon'ble Mr. M. [Kusthia (Muhammadan).]

Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr. [Gopalganj (Muhammadan).]

Shamsul Huda, Maulana. [Mymensingh South (Muhammadan).]

Singha, Babu Kshetra Nath. [Rangpur (General).]

Sinha, Srijut Manindra Bhusan. [Bankura West (General).]

Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda. [Bengal Dooars (Western) Tea Garden Labour.]

Skipwith, Mr. W. E. [Calcutta and Suburbs (European).]

Smyth-Osbourne, Mr. D. G. [Darjeeling (European).]

Speller, Mr. J. H. [Calcutta and Suburbs (European).]

Stark, Mr. A. F. [Calcutta and Suburbs (European).]

Steven, Mr. J. W. R. [Dacca (European).]

Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S. [24-Parganas Municipal (Muhammadan).]

Sur, Mr. Harendra Kumar. [Noakhali (General).]

T

Tamizuddin Khan, Mr. [Faridpur West (Muhammadan).]

Thakur, Mr. Promatha Ranjan. [Faridpur (General).]

Tofel Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi Haji. [Bhola South (Muhammadan).]

W

Waliur Rahman, Maulvi. [Jessore East (Muhammadan).]

Walker, Mr. J. R. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

Walker, Mr. W. A. M., C.B.E. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)

Whitehead, Mr. R. B. (Indian Mining Association.)

Wordsworth, Mr. W. C., C.I.E. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

Y

Yousuf Mirza. [24-Parganas Central (Muhammadan).]

Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr. [Faridpur East (Muhammadan).]

Z

Zahur Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi. [Malda North (Muhammadan).]

Zaman, Mr. A. M. A. [Hooghly *cum* Serampore (Registered Factories) Labour.]

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS

Official Report of the Fourteenth Session.

Volume LXIII.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 15th September, 1942, at 4 p.m

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY) in the Chair, 8 Hon'ble Ministers and 184 members.

Obituary.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ladies and gentlemen, before we proceed with the business of the day, it is my very sad duty to refer to the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent while on active service when a Sunderland flying boat crashed in the north of Scotland. The news of his death so early in life came to us all as a great shock. We are sorely smitten by the death of a gentleman prince framed in the prodigality of nature. Our hearts go out in loyal sympathy to His Majesty the King-Emperor and all members of the Royal Family and particularly to Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent and her three children.

I have also to refer to the deaths of Maharaja Bahadur Sir Prodyot Coomar Tagore, K.C.I.E., Dr. E. Raghavendra Rao, Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola, Sir Kurma Venkata Reddy and Sir Edmond Nicolas Blandy.

Maharaja Bahadur Sir Prodyot Coomar Tagore, K.C.I.E., died at Benares on the 27th August, 1942, after a short illness. In him this province has lost a great patron of art. He was the founder-President of the Academy of Fine Arts. He took an active interest in numerous public affairs and was connected with many public institutions. He was very liberal in his social and political views.

Dr. E. Raghavendra Rao had manifold activities in life. He was a member of the Central Provinces Legislative Council, was a Minister of the Central Provinces Government and also acted as Governor of the Central Provinces in 1936. He was a member of the Central Provinces Legislative Assembly and with the inauguration of the Reforms was the

Chief Minister from April to July, 1937. In 1939 he was appointed *Adviser to the Secretary of State* for India. Last year he joined the Viceroy's Executive Council and died in harness.

Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola was a Member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Bombay under the old Reforms. He was also President of the old Bombay Legislative Council. He was elected President of the Indian Legislative Assembly in 1931 which office he resigned later. Besides this, he served conspicuously in various Committees and Commissions.

He rose into eminence also in business. By his death, Bombay has lost an illustrious figure both in the field of public activities and business world.

Sir Kurma Venkata Reddy died on the 10th September at Madras. He was a man of outstanding ability and had held many high and important office. He acted as the Governor of Madras in the absence of Lord Erskine. In 1936 he represented India at the League of Nations He was the Vice-Chancellor of the Annamalai University at the time of his death.

Sir Nicolas Blandy died on the 8th September, 1942, in Darjeeling. He joined the Indian Civil Service in 1909 and held various important appointments since then. He was appointed the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal in 1939. At the time of his death he was the Chairman of the Public Service Commission.

I feel it our duty to send messages of sympathy to the Royal Family and other bereaved families at the great loss they have sustained, and I hope members will signify their assent by rising in their seats.

(Members rose in their seats.)

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Secretary will take the necessary action.

Panel of Chairmen.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In accordance with the provision of rule 6 of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules, I nominate the following members of the Assembly to form a Panel of Chairmen for the ensuing Session:—

(1) Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin, K.C.I.E.,

(2) Mr. Kiron Sankar Roy,

(3) Mr. David Hendry,

(4) Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar;

unless otherwise arranged the senior member among them present in the above order will preside over the deliberations of this Assembly in my absence.

Committee on Petitions.

In accordance with the provisions of rule 82 of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules, I nominate the following seven members of the Assembly to form the Committee on Petitions with the Deputy Speaker as Chairman :—

(1) Mr. Syed Hasan Ali Chowdhury,

(2) Mr. A. M. Abdul Hamid,

(3) Mr. W. C. Wordsworth, C.I.E.,

(4) Babu Kshetra Nath Singha,

(5) Khan Bahadur Maulvi Syed Muhammad Afzal,

(6) Mr. Banku Behari Mandal, and

(7) Mr. Atul Chandra Kumar.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Forest Industries in Bengal.

*1. **Maulvi MANIRUDDIN AKHAND:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Excise and Forest Department be pleased to state whether any Forest Industries have been started by the Government?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what is it?

(*c*) If no industries have yet been started, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of starting some Forest Industries in the near future?

(*d*) Have the Government consulted any expert opinion for the purpose?

MINISTER in charge of the EXCISE and FOREST DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Upendra Nath Barman): (*a*) and (*b*) The Government have started a saw mill at Siliguri. A special officer has also been appointed to deal with the utilisation of forest products. Government have not started any other forest industry. But the Forest Department have given every possible help whenever any private forest industry has asked for it.

(*c*) No such project is under contemplation at present.

(*d*) Does not arise.

Jute acreage fixed for the year and price of jute.

*2. **Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to state the ratio of jute cultivation fixed for the next year?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that the price of jute rose for a time and went down abruptly; and

(*ii*) that for the last 4 months there are no purchasers of jute?

(*c*) If so, what steps do the Government intend to take in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the ACRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca): (*a*) and (*c*) The area of jute cultivation in season 1942-43 was to be 0/16th of the recorded acreage of 1940, but in view of the altered situation due to Japan's entry into the war Government have since decided to advise all licensed growers to sow jute this year on less than their licensed acreage but in no case on less than 8 annas of the acreage recorded in their names in 1940 and to grow on all lands not under jute the maximum amount of food crops, especially paddy.

(*b*) (*i*) I am fully aware of the movement of the price of jute.

(*ii*) This statement is not in accordance with my information.

Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government intend to change acreage next year?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: The question is hypothetical. When the time will come, Government will consider it. At present that time has not come.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state what was the effect of the advice which they gave to the cultivators of Bengal?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: It is difficult to say. As far as I have been able to gather, the advice has been followed largely by the cultivators.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: What was the method by which they communicated the advice to the cultivators?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Through the jute regulation officers, through propaganda, through speeches in the press and through M. L. As.

Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI: What is "speches in the press"?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I am sorry, this is a mistake.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the economic condition of the jute-grower is so acute that the province of Bengal is really threatened with a major calamity?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How does it arise?

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: It arises out of (*b*) (*ii*). If there is no purchaser of jute, there will be no price of jute, and it will be a serious matter for the province.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in the discussions on the 12th and 24th of that month, they took into consideration the export ratio of jute either raw or manufactured and then settle the ten anna basis?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: The late Government of which the ex-Minister of Agriculture and the ex-Minister of Commerce were members, as far as I am aware, considered this problem when they decided on this ten anna basis.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Are we to understand that since the exit of the last Ministry, the present honourable members of the Council of Ministers have paid no attention to the two sides of the problem to which I have tried to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is no supplementary question.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: May I suggest that it arises in this sense that the ratio of ten annas was settled by the last Cabinet, as the Hon'ble Minister said. What I am trying to find out is whether the acreage is kept in proportion with the export ratio. Did the present Cabinet consider that specially after the declaration of war by Japan?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Sir, the present Cabinet have reduced the basis from what the old Cabinet had decided, and have asked the cultivators to grow only eight annas of the acreage.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the fall in the price of jute to a subnormal level is due to the fact that Government have failed to marshal transport facilities in such a way as to arrange for the conveyance of the product to Calcutta?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: With one portion of the statement I agree, namely, that it is on account of transport that the price of jute is low, but with the other portion of his statement I cannot agree, namely, that it is the fault of the Government

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government have taken any steps for the fullest possible utilisation of all transport facilities and for the co-ordination of civil as well as military requirements so as to ease the present situation?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Sir, may I here point out that there is a non-official resolution on Friday in regard to jute, and I will be prepared at that time to give a full explanation when the whole matter will come up. If the honourable members of the Opposition want to know the present position of what the Government are doing in trying to solve the problem of transport——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may give a straight answer to whether Government are doing something for the co-ordination of transport facilities.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Sir, Government are trying their best to solve this problem of transport.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, may I rise to a point of order as to whether an Hon'ble Minister is justified in postponing an answer to a question by saying——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has not postponed the answer. He has given it.

Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what has been the acreage this year compared with that of the last year? He says that it was ten annas of two years ago and that the Ministry after the advent of Japan into the war, advised the cultivators to restrict their cultivation to eight annas of the crop of two years ago. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us an idea of what the actual cultivation is this year so that the House may judge the extent to which Government have been successful in their propaganda?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I want notice to answer this.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: What is the acreage of paddy cultivated?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no question of paddy here.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: In the last part of his answer, the Hon'ble Minister has said "to grow on all lands not under jute the maximum amount of food crops, especially paddy."

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is in reply to the other question. If he is prepared to answer it, I have no objection.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: What I have said is this, that we have requested the cultivators to put the land released from jute cultivation under paddy.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enlighten the House as to what is the price of jute at the present moment in North Bengal?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: There are different prices in different places. It varies from a maximum of Rs. 6 to Rs. 3 in some places and in other places it varies from Rs. 7 to Rs. 4.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: What is the price of low bottom jute in North Bengal?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I have just said that the minimum is Rs. 3.

Depression in jute trade.

*3. **Maulvi MD. ISRAIL:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department aware that the decision of Government regulating only 3/8ths of jute crop in 1942 has produced a depression in the price of jute?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of taking steps for—

(*i*) controlling the price of jute;

(*ii*) further restriction of jute-growing acreage; and

(*iii*) production of more food crops in view of the war situation?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: (*a*) There has been, of late, some depression in the price of jute, but this is not due to the Government's decision regarding acreage.

(*b*) (*i*) No.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) The question of revision of the decision to fix acreage in Bengal at 10 annas of the 1940 acreage was reconsidered at Cabinet Meetings held on 12th and 24th March and it was decided to advise the licensed growers to sow jute this year on less than their licensed acreage but in no case on less than 8 annas of the acreage recorded in their names in 1940, and to grow on all lands not under jute the maximum amount of food crops, especially paddy. A press communique to this effect has been issued.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when this ten annas of 1940 acreage was settled in the Cabinet?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I cannot give you the date offhand.

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the entry of Japan into the war has been the principal cause of the fall of the price of jute?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: No; that may be one of the causes.

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: As this is one of the causes, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether after the entry of Japan into the war Government considered it necessary to change the acreage?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Yes.

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the acreage was actually changed?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: To a certain extent.

Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI: Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has been pleased to state that there has been of late some depression in the price of jute, but this is not due to the Government's decision regarding acreage. May I know what this depression is due to?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Transport difficulties. No steamers were available.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that if the acreage had been reduced, say, from ten annas to five annas, the price of jute would have been maintained?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a hypothetical question.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The Hon'ble Minister states that the fall is not due to Government's decision regarding the acreage. I challenge him and say that it is due to that. Had it been reduced properly, the price would have been maintained. I challenge that his statement is absolutely inaccurate and made by a person who knows nothing about it.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: *Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state* who was the Hon'ble Minister that will be held responsible to fix up this ten-anna quota of the jute area for cultivation?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: My ex-colleague who was in charge of the Commerce Department was responsible.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that the Muslim League Parliamentary Party suggested during the last Session to reduce the quota by the promulgation of an Ordinance? Is he aware of the fact?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca. I am not aware of the fact.

Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that at a time when he should have been pretending to curtail the sowing of jute he and his other colleagues were touring round the Province and accepting garlands and addresses?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: The Hon'ble Minister says that there was a certain decrease in the acreage. To what extent was the acreage reduced by the Government?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca. By two annas.

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: In what way? Was that a compulsory decrease?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca. No.

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if this Government tried to obtain any promise from the Government of India to purchase the surplus jute if there was an abnormal fall in the market?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca. Most certainly.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Has the Hon'ble Minister read the circular issued by the Jute Committee regarding the alternative uses of jute, especially soles of shoes, and will that in any way lead to a further curtailment of the acreage?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your question?

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Experts have advised upon the alternative uses of jute, especially soles of shoes. If jute is diverted to that industry, will that reduce the acreage?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: If the experts send their advice to the department, it will be considered and replies will then be given.

Disposal of finished bricks in certain places of 24-Parganas.

*4. **Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH SEN:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department aware—

(*i*) that the manufacturers of bricks in Katrang, Makla, Bally and other localities in the 24-Parganas have been prohibited from removing or otherwise disposing of the finished bricks without special Government permits;

(*ii*) that this prohibition has been supplemented by an order issued by the Chief Controller of Prices, Bengal, prohibiting the disposal of first and second class bricks within a big area round about Calcutta and also fixing the maximum prices at Rs. 23 and Rs. 21 per thousand for first and second class bricks respectively;

(*iii*) that these measures have created a deadlock in building trade and in the manufacture of bricks;

(*iv*) that a large stock of about 10,000,000 bricks are lying undisposed of in the various kilns thus causing a freezing of the assets of the brick manufacturers; and

(*v*) that the Government are compelling the manufacturers of bricks to deliver same to them as and when required?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps do the Government propose to take in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE and LABOUR DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca): (*a*) (*i*) Yes, such a restriction was imposed on most of the brick manufacturers within the localities.

(*ii*) Yes, within a radius of about 16 miles from Calcutta.

(*iii*) These measures may have created a deadlock in the building trade in these areas but I am sure that in the present emergency the needs of A.R.P. and other war works must be given preference over ordinary peace time building works. There has, however, been no deadlock in the manufacture of bricks. On the other hand the manufacture is in full swing and Government are assisting by securing priority wagons for coal supply when necessary.

(*iv*) There has been a temporary accumulation of stocks, though not as much as stated by the honourable member. But against this, there is an order for 450 lakhs from the Military Department and steps are being taken in consultation with the manufacturers to increase production to meet this heavy demand and demands for other war works. In fact, every brick that can be produced now will be required for works like these and there can be no question of deadlock.

(*v*) Yes, this procedure has been adopted in the interests of the brick manufacturers as well as of the consumers.

(*b*) *Vide* replies to (*iii*) and (*iv*) above. I do not think it is necessary for me to take any further action at present.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is the intention of Government to continue this prohibitory order any further?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Which prohibitory order?

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH SEN: Regarding restriction of the movement of bricks.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: It is under the consideration of Government.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the supply of bricks for buildings like hospitals and schools and to give them also priority, if necessary, over these military orders?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: If that question is brought up, I shall consider that.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, I have asked the Hon'ble Minister whether he will allow the supply of bricks for buildings like hospitals and schools——

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRAVARTY: Apply to the Governor. (Laughter.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister has said that if the question is brought up, he will consider it on its merits.

Appointment of officers in Industries Department for war contract.

*5. **Mr. PUSPAJIT BARMA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to state whether

any one has been appointed to officiate in the post of Assistant Intelligence Officer in the Supply Department for Military Contract under the Department of Industries?

(b) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(i) what is his academic qualification; and

(ii) the reason why a candidate from the members of the Scheduled Castes was not appointed to the post?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Opening up of the silted portions of the Nabaganga river.

*6. **Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Irrigation Department aware—

(i) that the river Nabaganga within the area between Gharakhali and Lohagara in the district of Jessore is silted up; and

(ii) that in the months of March and April, it can be forded on in some places?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, what action do the Government contemplate taking in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed): (a) Yes.

(b) The river Nabaganga is intimately connected with other rivers of Central Bengal. A scheme for the improvement of all these rivers is under preparation.

Non-official Muslim members of Bajitpur High English School Managing Committee.

*7. **Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(i) the number of—

(1) Hindu and Muslim students,

(2) Hindu and Muslim teachers excepting the Arabic Maulvi and Sanskrit Pandit, and

(3) members in the Managing Committee of the Bajitpur (Mymensingh) Government-aided High English School; and

(ii) the number of existing Muslim members in the Managing Committee?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps do the Government contemplate to take for the increase of the *Muslim members in* the said committee?

***MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the* Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. Abdul Karim):** (*a*) (*i*)—

(1) Hindu students—116.

Muslim students—100.

(2) Hindu teachers—9.

Muslim teachers—3.

(3) Twelve.

(*ii*) Three.

(*b*) The general question of the constitution of Managing Committees of Government-aided schools is under consideration.

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: With reference to answer (*a*)(*i*)-(1) and (2), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he thinks it desirable to direct school authorities to reserve the future vacancies till the number of Muslim teachers proportionate to Muslim students is reached?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: That is a matter entirely for the Managing Committee to decide, and if the Managing Committee is unreasonable in its attitude, of course Government at the time of giving grant-in-aid will consider that question.

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: From the figures given in the answer, does the Hon'ble Minister think that the proportion of Muslim teachers is reasonable to the number of Muslim students? In reply to my supplementary question the Hon'ble Minister has said that if the Committee thinks it reasonable they will reserve. I want to know whether the Hon'ble Minister thinks that the number of Muslim teachers in the schools is reasonably proportionate to the number of Muslim students there?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I said "if the Committee is unreasonable—not reasonable".

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The Hon'ble Minister has stated "if the Committee is unreasonable". What is the standard of unreasonableness for the Committee? Would it be unreasonable if the Committee did not appoint Muslim teacher in the next vacancy?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Yes.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Will that be a criterion?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Yes.

Damaged primary school buildings in Tippera.

*8. **Mr. MAQBUL HUSSAIN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state the number of free primary school houses that have fallen or been damaged by the recent storm that passed over Kasba police-station in the district of Tippera?

(*b*) Have the Government sanctioned any amount for the repair of those houses?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the amount?

(*d*) If no amount has yet been sanctioned, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) Sixty-three.

(*b*) to (*d*) The District School Board has been permitted as a special case to spend 5 per cent. of their budgeted expenditure during the current financial year towards reconstruction of or repairs to primary school buildings damaged by storm in addition to the expenditure up to 2 per cent. of their income on repairs to primary schools. The District School Board has been sanctioned an additional grant of Rs.1,30,000 during the current financial year in addition to the usual permanent grant of Rs.1,47,094.

Publication of result of Primary Final Examination.

*9. **Maulvi MD. ISRAIL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state the reason for the delay in publishing the result of the Primary Final Examination of the Mymensingh district?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that delay in publishing the said result has caused inconvenience to the students in getting themselves admitted into schools?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action he proposes to take for early publication of the result?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) There was no unusual delay. The results were published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 12th February. Last year the results were published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 20th February.

(*b*) A manuscript copy of the result sheet was forwarded to the District Inspector of Schools, Mymensingh, on the 9th January, for circulation so that students might not be put to difficulty in securing admission into schools.

(*c*) I shall look into the matter.

Maulvi MD. ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, with reference to answer (*b*), to whom did the District Inspector of Schools send the manuscript copies of the result sheet so that the students might not be put to difficulty in securing admission?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: For aught I can say it must have been sent to the respective schools by the District Inspector of Schools.

Maulvi MD. ISRAIL: Was it sent to the respective schools?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Yes, to the schools concerned.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Are you sure of the fact?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: No, I am not sure. I have said that from what I can imagine.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: We don't want any imagination. We want facts. The question is intended to elicit facts. The Hon'ble Minister says that he imagines that to be the case. We have not come here to be entertained by the Hon'ble Minister from his imagination.

Maulvi MD. ISRAIL: Sir,——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. Mr. Israil, are you putting any question?

Maulvi MD. ISRAIL: Yes, Sir. My question is this. In answer (*a*) the Hon'ble Minister says that there was no unusual delay in publishing the results. My question is what is the usual time for publication of the results of the Primary Final Examination. I want to know that from the Hon'ble Minister.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: As soon as the examinations are over, sufficient time is given for the examination of the papers. I cannot give you the exact date.

Maulvi MD. ISRAIL: How could you say that there was no unusual delay? What is the usual time for publishing the results?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: *That is already stated* in answer (*a*). Generally the results are published in February as far as one can judge from the publication of results in the *Calcutta Gazette*. Last year it was 12th February and this year 20th February.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: This year there was unusual delay.

Maulvi MD. ISRAIL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the District Inspector of Schools did not send manuscript copies to anybody in the subdivision?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: No. The report is that the District Inspector of Schools did send the manuscript copy.

Maulvi MD. ISRAIL: To whom did he send?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: To the schools concerned.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he imagined that these manuscript copies had been sent?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order.

Printing of a statement by the Hon'ble Chief Minister at the Bengal Government Press.

***10. Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department aware—

(*i*) that a long statement of the Chief Minister was printed at the Bengal Government Press; and

(*ii*) that the copies of the statement were distributed through the agents of the Government?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*i*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of copies that were printed at the Government Press and the cost incurred in this connection?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the statement was printed and distributed as an official document?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ (on behalf of the Hon'ble Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee, Minister in charge of the Finance Department): The statement as printed is not quite correct. I shall with your permission give the correct answer—

(a)(i) The statement of the Chief Minister was printed at the Bengal Government Press, but it was not a long statement.

(ii) No.

(b) It was originally intended to print 100,000 copies, but only 40,000 copies were printed and the cost was a little over Rs. 400.

(c) The statement was printed as an official document and distributed by me personally.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Can the Hon'ble Chief Minister say anything beyond what is printed?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Oh, yes, he can, with my permission.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The question was addressed to the Finance Department and the answer was drawn up by them. When I read the answer, I am entitled to put before the House what I consider to be a correct statement with the permission of the Chair.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: In the written reply that has been circulated, it is definitely stated by the Finance Department that an expenditure of Rs. 900 was incurred for the purpose. Now the Hon'ble Chief Minister says that only Rs. 400 was incurred. We want your ruling whether the statement now made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister is to be taken as correct?

Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI: We are puzzled, Sir. A statement is made and recorded by the Hon'ble Finance Minister and now the Hon'ble Chief Minister makes another statement amending the previous statement. One of them must be correct. Who is correct, Sir?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I permitted the Hon'ble Chief Minister to reply on behalf of the Hon'ble Finance Minister. I had also permitted him to correct the statement, as he thinks best; and with my permission he has made a statement correcting the previous statement.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Is it a printing mistake?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, it is not a printing mistake.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: On a point of order, Sir. The Chief Minister has corrected the statement. Now, will he inform the House as to which of the two statements is correct—whether his or the Finance Minister's?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are entitled to put supplementary questions. But as regards the point of order raised by you, I allowed the Chief Minister to correct the statement, and he has corrected it and has given his reply. I cannot allow any point of order which is nothing but a reflection on the statement made by the Chief Minister.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: On a point of order, Sir. If any particular member, without putting supplementary questions, wants to delay the proceedings of the House, will you please debar him from making such statements and pass on to the next question?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Chief Minister be pleased to state which of the two statements is correct?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already decided that point.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether that statement was or was not a party statement, enunciating the policy of his party?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: No, nothing of the kind. The statement contains contradiction of certain statements which have been appearing in the newspapers and as to which, when contradictions were sent by Government, no publication was made, and I was forced in defence of public interest to have that statement printed as an official document, but I took care to circulate it personally.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: May I know, Sir, if this statement which was contradicted by the Chief Minister referred to his conduct as a party leader and in his private capacity as a member of an organisation and had nothing to do with matters connected with the Government or with his position as a Cabinet Minister?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: A man may fill many parts and one part of his activities may overlap his activities in another direction. It is very difficult for me to dissociate myself from my various capacities which I have the privilege at the present moment to enjoy. I cannot say that all parts of the statement were such as to be immune from the criticisms that they were in some respects a defence of party policy, but in the main it was an official document in the sense that it was a statement of governmental policy which I thought ought to be given publication. In my judgment I therefore had the statement published by the Government Press. But if the House by a majority decides by a resolution carried to the effect that it was purely a private matter, I can refund that amount.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Will the Hon'ble Chief Minister kindly place that document before the House so that the House may have an opportunity to judge whether it was a question mainly relating to party politics?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: If I am permitted to say, Sir, I may circulate the document before all the members of the House.

Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: Are we to understand from the Hon'ble the Chief Minister's answer that the Bengal Press took no notice whatsoever of this statement as a result of which he was obliged to get it printed in the Bengal Government Press?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I think I ought to remind the honourable member that on many an occasion in the past I as Minister in charge of the Publicity Department permitted the speeches of some Hon'ble Ministers and their photographs to be published for public advertisement, and if I remember aright the honourable member himself had one of his speeches published in the *Bengal Weekly* with my permission.

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to mention the names of the Hon'ble Ministers who requested him to publish their photographs and their speeches in the *Bengal Weekly* for public advertisement?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not allow this question.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether with a view to escaping public censure the Hon'ble the Chief Minister came forward with a private statement bearing the stamp of an official document?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: What was the method adopted by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister in distributing these 40,000 copies of his statement?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He said that he distributed them personally.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that at meetings at which we were present and at which the Hon'ble the Chief Minister was not present this document was distributed? How could it be done when he says that he distributed the statement personally?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I do not know.

Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI: Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has not replied to the question.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot force him.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Excise Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors appointed since 1940.

1. **Mr. JAGAT CHANDRA MANDAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Excise and Forest Department be pleased to state showing district by district—

(*i*) the number of—

(1) Inspectors, and

(2) Sub-Inspectors

of Excise appointed from 1940 up to 12th March, 1942; and

(*ii*) the number of them that are—

(1) Muslims,

(2) Caste Hindus, and

(3) Scheduled Castes?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Communal Ratio Rule was observed in making those appointments?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: (*a*) The appointment of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Excise is not made district by district but is made on a provincial basis. The question of supplying the figures district by district does not, therefore, arise. The figures given below refer to the whole Province.

(*i*) (1) No direct recruitment was made during the period.

(2) Thirty-six.

(*ii*) (1) Eighteen.

(2) Thirteen (including members of the minority communities).

(3) Five.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Rai Sahib ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many indirect appointments by promotion from the rank of Sub-Inspector to that of Inspector were made?

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: I ask for notice.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the indirect method was adopted with a view to avoiding the claims of Scheduled Caste candidates?

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: I do not quite follow what he means by indirect method: if he means "promotion," I do not certainly agree with him.

Communal ratio of staff in Jute Department in 1940 and 1941.

2. **Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of officers of all grades appointed in the Jute Department in 1940 and 1941; and

(*ii*) the number of them that are—

(1) Muslims,

(2) Caste Hindus, and

(3) Scheduled Castes?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the communal ratio decision was observed in those cases of appointments?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: (*a*) Two statements are placed on the Library Table.

(*b*) The statements will show that Communal Ratio Rules have as far as practicable been observed. The quota for Scheduled Castes could not be maintained in some cases owing to the dearth of candidates with requisite qualifications.

A.R.P. work (Animal Branch).

3. **Mr. A. M. ABDUL HAMID:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the steps taken for A.R.P. work (Animal Branch);

(*ii*) the sanctioned strength of the staff appointed or to be appointed for the work;

(*iii*) whether the vacancies in this section have been filled up in accordance with the declared communal ratio; and

(*iv*) the number of Muslims so far appointed?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*)(*iii*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: (*a*) (*i*) Twenty-nine First Aid Posts and Base Hospitals have been opened in Calcutta and 6 First Aid Posts have been opened at Howrah. Up to 10th March, 175 Brahmani and Khodai Bulls were rounded up from the streets of Calcutta of which 150 bulls were removed to the Pinjrapole at Kanchrapara (Eastern Bengal Railway).

(*ii*) Twenty-two.

(*iii*) No.

(*iv*) Six.

(*b*) Every endeavour was made to appoint qualified veterinary workers according to the declared Communal Ratio Rules, but so far no qualified Muslim was available. One unqualified Muslim worker resigned his post for personal reasons.

The strength is now made up as follows:—

(*i*) Qualified Veterinary workers—

6 Hindus.

1 Armenian.

(*ii*) Unqualified workers (trained or undergoing training at the Bengal Veterinary College)—

6 Muslims.

7 Hindus.

1 Scheduled Caste.

1 Indian Christian.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: With reference to answer (*a*)(*iii*) "No," will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state why vacancies were not filled up in accordance with the declared Communal Ratio Rules?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: The reply is given there. As we could not get them, they could not be filled up.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: With reference to answer (*b*), "Every endeavour was made to appoint qualified veterinary workers according to the declared Communal Ratio Rules," will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the nature of endeavour that was made to secure communal ratio?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: There is the Communal Ratio Officer who fixes communal ratio.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether these vacancies were ever advertised?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Most certainly they were advertised.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: In which papers were they advertised?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I want notice.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, I have heard of Brahmani bull, but what is a Khudai bull?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: There are different classes of bulls.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: If a member of this House is foolish enough not to understand the high-sounding language of an answer to a question he may demand a reply. I have heard of Khudai Khitmatgar, but what is a Khudai bull?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I also plead ignorance. I cannot give you any light on what is a Khudai bull.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: As a member of this House I demand that the Minister shall not play with us, and I demand of you as protector of my rights in this House that these Ministers shall not play jokes with us. What is meant by a Khudai bull I must know.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nawab Bahadur, can you explain what is a Khudai bull?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: No.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: If an Hon'ble Minister does not know the meaning of his language——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I agree with Mr. Siddiqi that he has a right to know the meaning of the expression, and I insist on the Minister to say what is a Khudai bull. If he cannot answer it today he can ask for notice.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I am informed that Khudai bull means a bull let loose in the name of God.

Mr. K. NOORUDDIN: Whose God?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Khoda is the God of the Muslims.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: This is an insult to the Muslims. He is insulting his own religion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As regards the meaning of Khudai bull if you still insist, I will help you and I will try and give you its real significance and the real meaning.

Re-excavation of Mithachhara Khal, Chittagong.

4. Dr. SANAULLAH: (*a*) With reference to the reply given to clause (*d*) to unstarred question No. 70 on the 27th March, 1941, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state whether the scheme for re-excavation of Mithachhara *khal* in police-station Hathazari, district Chittagong, after being examined by the Executive Engineer, Mymensingh, has been found feasible?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the actual re-excavation work is likely to be taken up?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) and (*c*) The scheme involves reconstruction of a railway bridge over the Mithachhara channel. It also involves silt-clearance of the channel but the channel would silt up again within a short time. The cost of replacement of the bridge and of frequent silt-clearance will not be commensurate with the benefit to be derived from the scheme.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Union Boards in Dacca.

5. Mr. DHANANJOY ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing—

(*a*) the names of union boards in the district of Dacca where election has been held in the years 1941 and 1942; and

(*b*) the steps taken by the Government for the representation of the Scheduled Castes in those union boards?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu): (a) A statement is laid on the Table.

(b) No special steps have been taken but the question of representation of every community on the boards is duly considered at the time of making nominations.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (a) of unstarred question No. 5.

District.	Subdivision.	Union Boards where elections held in 1941.	Union Boards where elections held in 1942.
Dacca ..	Manikganj ..	(1) Arna, (2) Nali, (3) Uthali, (4) Dighulia, (5) Baghutia, (6) Baniajuri, (7) Gheor, (8) Baldhara, (9) Naogaon, (10) Sutalori, (11) Dhulsura, (12) Poyla and (13) Baratia.	(1) Garpara, (2) Atigram, (3) Sayesta, (4) Dighi and (5) Betila-Mitara.
Do. ..	Munshiganj ..	(1) Shyamsiddi, (2) Patabhog, (3) Atpara, (4) Kukutia, (5) Chitrokote, (6) Kanaksar and (7) Tantar.	Nil.
Do. .	Narayanganj .	(1) Lebutala and (2) Joshar.	(1) Danga, (2) Narsingdi, (3) Bhulabo, (4) Nagari, (5) Chardighaldi, (6) Shidhirganj, (7) Sreenagar, (8) Uchitpura, (9) Amlabo, (10) Silmandi, (11) Alokebali and (12) Paratali.
Do. ..	Sadar (North) ..	(1) Totuljhora, (2) Barmi, (3) Lasharchala, (4) Rowail, (5) Sutrapur, (6) Suapur and (7) Dhamrai.	(1) Asulia and (2) Dhaljora.
Do. ..	Sadar (South) ..	Nil ..	(1) Subhodya, (2) Zinzira, (3) Mukshedpur, (4) Joypara and (5) Sutarpara.

General election of Noakhali District Board.

6. Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(i) whether the general election of the Noakhali District Board has been postponed;

(ii) at what stage the election was postponed; and

(iii) the reason of such postponement?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the general election of the Mymensingh District Board is to take place?

(c) Do the Government contemplate to postpone the election there also?

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of stopping the preliminary works recently taken in hand?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: (a) (i) Yes.

(ii) The election was postponed after the publication of notice fixing date for filing nomination papers by the candidates.

(iii) The honourable member is referred to the reply to clause (f) of question No. 185 asked by Mr. Syed Abdul Majid, M.L.A., on the 21st March, 1942.

(b) The next general election of the Mymensingh District Board is expected to be held in the beginning of the next cold weather, the exact date being not yet fixed.

(c) There is no such intention.

(d) The question does not arise.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: In view of the fact that the election of the District Board of Noakhali was postponed till November, 1942, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the election of the district board will be held in November this year?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Ordinarily, the election ought to be held in November, 1942, but the Government has under consideration the whole question of having elections held in the areas which have been declared dangerous.

Adjournment Motion.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, I gave notice of an adjournment motion. Have I got your permission?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Shahabuddin. I have given my consent to your adjournment motion, but I will advise you to consider whether you will hear the statement of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister now. After hearing his statement, if you still think that your adjournment motion is necessary, I will consider that. If you do not agree I will give my opinion here and now. Supposing I admit your adjournment motion, naturally you will lose one day because I will have to fix some day for it and you will lose that day. If you can cover your adjournment motion by the special motion of which an agreement has been reached between the Hon'ble Leader of the House and the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition, for all practical purposes you will save two hours. It is for you to consider whether you insist on the adjournment motion of which you have given notice and to which I have given my consent.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Do I understand you to say that after the Chief Minister has spoken, you will give me another opportunity whether I still insist on moving this motion or not? I think the better suggestion will be for you to give me an opportunity to move this motion after listening to the Chief Minister on the next day, that is, day after tomorrow, when we meet.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your motion will be kept in abeyance and if you are satisfied then there is no necessity of moving this motion and if, however, you insist on moving it, I will consider that and will give you an opportunity.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Then you will waive the objection of delay?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. The Hon'ble the Chief Minister.

ORDINANCE.

The Bengal Turbulent Areas Ordinance, 1942.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, under section 88(2) (*a*) of the Government of India Act, 1935, I beg to lay the Bengal Turbulent Areas Ordinance, 1942, before the Assembly.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali, there is just one thing for you. You have got a motion disapproving the ordinance. I had fixed tomorrow for taking up your motion. I am thinking to change the programme. I will let you know the time when I will allow you to move your motion.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS.

Appropriation Accounts, 1940-41, and the Audit Report, 1942.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, on behalf of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister I beg to present the Appropriation Accounts, 1940-41, and the Audit Report, 1942.

Sir, the House may recall that when the finance accounts for 1940-41 were placed before the House in February last by the Hon'ble Finance Minister he explained that the Appropriation Accounts for 1940-41 which formed part of the accounts of the province had not been received from the Auditor-General. The Auditor-General had intimated that the Report of the Auditor, Home Accounts, relating to provincial transactions in the United Kingdom embodied in the Appropriation Accounts had not been

received at that time due to the exigencies of war. The Appropriation Accounts for 1940-41 and the Audit Report for 1942 have now been received from the Auditor-General, and I beg to lay them before the House as required by the Act.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now adjourn for 10 minutes for prayer. After we reassemble the Hon'ble Chief Minister will read his statement.

(The House was accordingly adjourned at this stage for ten minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Point of order.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, may I rise on a point of order which may meet with the approval of the Chief Minister? Presumably, Sir, the Chief Minister is fasting and there are honourable members on this side of the House who are also fasting. We are sure we do not wish to put the Hon'ble Chief Minister to the trouble of reading his entire speech. It may either be taken as read or the Hon'ble Chief Minister may read such extracts from his speech as he thinks he should like to place before the House. We shall be quite satisfied if the Hon'ble Chief Minister does not read his entire speech, and we shall consider that the entire speech has been read.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I will read the first portion of my speech. May I have your leave, Sir?

Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI: Sir, I would like to draw your attention to this statement of 18 pages. It is addressed to ladies and gentlemen. The practice of this House is that any member addressing the House should address you and not ladies and gentlemen.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That will be corrected.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: On a point of order, Sir. If any section of the speech is read, only that section which has been uttered in the House should be recorded in the official proceedings.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Suhrawardy has suggested that the whole speech should be taken as read. I am just going to ask the Hon'ble Leader of the House whether he will read the whole speech. If you all agree that the whole speech should be taken as read, of course we can go earlier. If the Hon'ble Leader of the House agrees to this, he will not read the whole speech. He will only read the beginning and concluding paragraphs of his speech and finish it, and the whole speech will be taken as read.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: If the whole statement, Sir, is taken as read with your permission, then my point of order does not arise. What I was submitting was this, that if a member reads one portion and does not read another portion of a statement or a written speech, can we officially recognise that portion and print it in our official report even if it has not been uttered in the House?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: My opinion is this, that if you all agree, the whole speech will be recorded in the official report.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, I may not have explained myself fully. If the whole statement is taken as read, with your permission, my point of order does not arise. But if any portion is uttered, that is to say spoken by word of mouth and the other portion is not uttered, will that portion go into the official Hansard?

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: By consent, yes.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The solution is this, that either he will not read his speech at all or he will take my leave to read the speech and after reading, say, one or two paragraphs, he will take my permission and the entire speech will be taken as read and in that case the official report will contain the entire speech That is the only solution and that is the suggestion from Mr. Suhrawardy.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: I am not following Mr. Suhrawardy's suggestion. What I am submitting to you, Sir, is a matter of the utmost importance, and I seek your ruling whether words not uttered in this House can go into the official record. I am raising an important constitutional point.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Sir, I would like to draw your attention to this. There are precedents in this House where big statements without being fully read out have, with the permission of the Chair, been recorded as read. I may quote the case of Dr. Sanyal when he gave a long speech in connection with the ratio affair. The whole speech, though not fully read, was taken as read with the permission of the then Speaker, Sir Muhammad Azizul Haque.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I quite realise the point raised by Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi. I shall ask the Chief Minister to read the entire speech.

GENERAL STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF MINISTER.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, I am grateful to my friend Mr. Suhrawardy for the suggestion he made, and I hope my friends over there will realise that although I am prepared to read the whole

speech it will be an infliction after a few minutes. I want to spare my friends by not being forced to read the whole speech. Now, I shall read with your permission.

I take this opportunity of placing before you a short résumé of the events that have taken place in the administration of this Province since we last met for our Budget discussion.

Before I make my statement today, I wish to offer an introductory remark. You have all had the privilege of listening to the address of His Excellency the Governor delivered at the Joint Session of the Legislature yesterday. As you are aware, it is not open to any member of the Legislature to raise a debate on any statement made by the Governor. At the same time, it is felt that it is of the utmost importance that the representatives of the people in Legislature assembled should have an opportunity of expressing their views on the measures that have been adopted for the safety of the country and its peoples from the point of view of their adequacy or otherwise. We have, therefore, decided that I should make a statement today covering practically the field traversed by His Excellency in order that members may have an opportunity of offering any criticisms which they think desirable and necessary. I am afraid repetitions will, in the circumstances, be inevitable; the more so, because I have not had the opportunity of previously acquainting myself of what His Excellency the Governor was going to say. The honourable members will, I hope, forgive me if I have to take up the time of the House by making a statement which might otherwise have appeared to be unnecessary.

May I now ask your leave, Sir, to place it on the table so that it may go into official record?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the rest of the speech is laid on the table, I am of opinion that it will go into record.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: With your leave, I give below a short account of the various activities of this Government during the period between the last session of the Assembly and the present one.

One of the major problems that has faced this Government in recent months and, in particular, since Japan entered the war has been the expansion and control of the A.R.P. organisation of the Province. As the House is well aware the Provincial Government has no responsibility for active defence, but they have a very real responsibility for ensuring that the passive defence measures taken for the protection of the citizens are adequate.

In recent months very considerable progress has been made. In addition to those areas in which A. R. P. measures were previously being made arrangements have in the past few months been made to extend the A. R. P. organisation to other towns.

In the areas where A. R. P. arrangements have been in existence for a considerable time the organisation has very largely taken shape according

to the instructions issued by Government, and particular stress is now being laid on the necessity for testing the arrangements that have been made and ensuring that by constant practice and exercises the services are brought to a high state of efficiency in the shortest possible time. In the new areas where arrangements have recently been started action is being taken to push on with the arrangements as quickly as possible.

As the House is aware Government have realised that all the A. R. P. services, if they are to be efficient, must rely on paid personnel as the nucleus of each service. Under the present arrangements 20 per cent. of the Wardens Service is paid, all the personnel in the Control and Report Centres if volunteers are not available, 50 per cent. of the Messenger Service, all the Casualty Service personnel attached to First Aid Parties, Ambulances and Sitting Case Cars, and 75 per cent. of the personnel attached to First Aid Posts, while finally all the Rescue Service personnel is paid.

Apart from the question of ensuring the maximum of efficiency one of the reasons for the high percentage of paid personnel in the various services has been the difficulty of securing a sufficient number of reliable volunteers. Strenuous efforts in this connection have been made but frequently without satisfactory results. Honourable members will be performing a most valuable service to the war effort if they can, in those areas where A. R. P. arrangements are being put into effect, use their influence to secure suitable volunteers for those A. R. P. services which require them.

In addition to these services volunteer Street Fire Parties and House Protection Fire Parties have been organised. These are essentially household services being bodies of three to six persons drawn from neighbouring houses supplied with stirrup pumps and equipment by Government, their sole and very important duty being to prevent incendiary bombs causing local fires in the vicinity of their houses. Government are aiming at an organisation of parties of between 3 to 6 for every 125 of the population. The response has been satisfactory in a number of areas: for instance, in Howrah 10,696 persons have been recruited; in 24-Parganas 10,791; in Calcutta the number recruited to date is 51,391—not unsatisfactory but in view of the population involved it is clear that very large number of persons have still to be brought within the scope of the scheme.

Particular attention in recent months has been paid to the problem—one of paramount importance—of training the A. R. P. personnel. Instructors of various grades have been appointed in all areas to the number considered necessary, and full advantage has been taken of the advanced courses in the Government of India A. R. P. Schools. In addition the experience that has been gained in the organisation in Calcutta has been placed at the disposal of areas elsewhere, and arrangements have and are being made to ensure that all areas obtain systematic instructions from the officers in Calcutta.

Satisfactory progress has been made in equipping the various services and First Aid posts. I would take this opportunity of referring in particular

to the arrangements that have been made for providing stirrup pumps for the public. Up to a short time ago the entire supply of stirrup pumps received from the Government of India in this Province were earmarked for the A. R. P. services. Their demands have now been met and Government of India have been able to make available for sale to the public a large number of stirrup pumps. Arrangements have been made to sell these stirrup pumps through a large number of stockists in this city and elsewhere under arrangements organised by the District Magistrates concerned. Government consider that the possession of a stirrup pump by all householders in a position to obtain one is most essential and a definite insurance against the spread of fire caused by incendiary bombs, supplementing as it does the arrangements Government themselves have made through the Street Fire Parties and House Protection Fire Parties which should ensure that in those areas where persons are not able to afford the purchase of an individual stirrup pump, fires do not spread.

In addition to the strengthening and development of the A. R. P. organisation Government have arranged in recent months for the improvement in the warning system, and a large number of sirens have now been received and distributed in vulnerable areas. Though it is likely that there will always be complaints from individuals that a particular siren was not heard, the general position now is infinitely better than it was some months ago.

Closely connected with the warning arrangements are the lighting arrangements regarding which definite orders of Government have issued restricting the lighting in the vulnerable areas as well as though to a lesser extent throughout the Province. Opportunity is taken here to emphasize the essential nature of these orders and to request that honourable members will do all in their power to ensure that, in their areas, the orders are complied with.

Air Raid Precautions in the technical sense form only part of the system of Civil Defence which we have been building up, and I propose at this point to review other measures which we have taken. I shall begin by saying something about what has been done to strengthen our fire fighting services.

In ordinary peace time the strength of the Calcutta Fire Brigade consists of 291 officers and men, with 22 fire engines, and it is liable to be called out to deal with fires anywhere between Budge Budge and Naihati on either side of the river Hooghly. For Civil Defence against fires started as a result of air raids, a scheme has been sanctioned for increasing the strength of the Fire Brigade by the formation on a temporary basis of an Auxiliary Fire Service, and the jurisdiction of the Fire Brigade and the Auxiliary Fire Service has been restricted to Calcutta and Howrah. For the rest of Bengal, including the Calcutta Industrial Area up and down the Hooghly, separate arrangements have been made. For the A. F. S. in Calcutta and Howrah 274 trailer pumps have been sanctioned. Up to date 111 trailer pumps have been delivered to the Fire Brigade for the A. F. S. in Calcutta and Howrah; the present strength of the A. F. S. personnel now exceeds one thousand and it will be steadily increased as fast as the men can be trained: the final

total strength will be about 2,000 men. A special training school was opened at Dum Dum on July the 1st; the course lasts three months and approximately 250 officers and men can be trained in a course. Training however will not be confined to the Dum Dum Training School, and if suitable men can be found faster than they can be trained at Dum Dum, they will be trained at existing fire stations or new reserve depots still to be opened.

In order to increase the availability of water for fire-fighting in Calcutta, certain measures have been taken which I do not think I need describe in detail.

As a temporary measure for the strengthening of the A. F. S. (not the Fire Brigade proper), the appointment of 30 Sub-Officers from Fire Brigades in England has been sanctioned, 24 of these have recently arrived.

If Air Raids take place, casualties are inevitable and we have prepared a scheme for the treatment of those whose injuries require treatment in hospital. The scheme provides for a total of over 8,000 beds made up as follows:—

By the reservation of approximately half the existing beds in existing hospitals, by opening new beds in Wards and verandahs, etc., of existing hospitals and by taking adjoining houses as annexes to these hospitals, and by commandeering altogether separate buildings in Calcutta or the Industrial Area and opening altogether new and independent hospitals.

Protective measures against blast have been made in all hospitals where civilian casualties will be treated, and arrangements have been made for alternative water supply.

In order to ensure the continuance of Essential Services provided by the Corporation in post-raid conditions, the following measures have been taken:—

(*i*) Mobile repair squads have been formed with spare stocks of materials and implements for repairs.

(*ii*) The machinery and main pipes at water pumping stations and drainage pumping stations have been protected.

(*iii*) Alternative outfall arrangements have been arranged in the event of damage to drainage pumping stations.

(*iv*) Camouflage is being applied to the Tallah Water Works Reservoir and Engine House.

(*v*) 2,500 tube-wells have been sunk all over Calcutta to provide alternative water supply in the event of damage to the water distribution system. All of these wells have been sunk on public land and therefore none has been placed inside a bustee; we are now considering the provision of 200 additional wells with particular regard for the needs of bustees. For the present we have also undertaken the responsibility for maintaining these wells and their condition is steadily improving; it is to be hoped that wilful damage to these wells in the future will be less than in the past.

(*vi*) Special camps of hutments have been erected on the outskirts of the city for the accommodation of 25 per cent. of the Corporation conservancy labour, and pucca buildings in various parts of the town have also been commandeered for the accommodation of a further 40 per cent.

All the municipalities in vulnerable areas were called upon to prepare and submit schemes for the maintenance of communications and Essential Services and on other Civil Defence subjects. The schemes received from the municipalities regarding repairs to roads and sewers, protection of waterworks, alternative water supply, emergency conservancy arrangements, etc., have been sanctioned after a thorough scrutiny and are being executed under the supervision of the A.R.P. Division of the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department. For the vulnerable areas in the districts of 24-Parganas, Hooghly and Burdwan, mobile repair squads under trained overseers have been sanctioned and stationed at strategic places in the area so as to be able to serve the needs of groups of municipalities.

A salvage organisation has been set up with a view to the removal for protection and storage of movable property from houses damaged as a result of an air raid, belonging to absentee owners or to owners who are unable to make arrangements themselves. The organisation will also render all possible assistance to owners anxious to remove property from damaged and threatened buildings to the nearest place of safety.

It is considered desirable that the debris of a demolished building should be levelled or removed as soon as possible after an air attack. We have therefore arranged for the levelling of any building damaged beyond repair and for the clearance of any debris in cases where the person in control of the building is unable or unwilling to arrange to do so himself. Within the municipal limits of Calcutta and Howrah, the Chairman of the Calcutta Improvement Trust has been placed in charge of this work. A lump payment of Rs. 20,000 has already been made to him to cover any preliminary expenses incidental to the scheme. Elsewhere in the province, District Magistrates have been instructed to arrange with the municipalities in vulnerable areas for certain contractors to be earmarked for this purpose should necessity arise. District Magistrates have been instructed that in the event of any municipality failing to perform this function, they should themselves take action in exercise of their power under Rule 78 of the Defence of India Rules.

With a view to ensuring as far as possible that there is shelter available for every bustee dweller within a reasonable distance of his dwelling, the Staff Officers of the A.R.P. Wardens' Service recently undertook a systematic survey of the bustees. As a result of this survey, the population of every bustee has been split up into sizable groups, with a leader in charge of each group. As far as possible arrangements have been made with owners of neighbouring pucca buildings to afford shelter to a particular group in a room in his or her house—the leader of the group and in some cases the entire group having been introduced to the owner. Public response to this move has been commendable all over the city.

My Hon'ble colleague in charge of the Revenue Department has been busy with schemes for the provision of shelter for people who may be rendered homeless by air attacks and those who leave their homes in towns after an air raid or in the event of an invasion. He has decided to provide relief arrangements for many thousands of persons at a time in the city of Calcutta. Seven relief centres now stand complete with requisite staff and necessary water supply, sanitary and other arrangements and 7 more nearing completion which arrangements are now in progress for the provision of relief for the balance of those who according to our estimates may require it. Homeless persons will be allowed to remain in these relief centres ordinarily for 3 days and in exceptional circumstances for 7 days and it is expected that during this period they will be able to make arrangements for their own food and shelter. While living at the relief centres they will be supplied with meals from the air raid relief kitchens which now stand ready fully equipped with the necessary establishment, cooking utensils and a considerable stock of food stuffs with water supply, sanitary and other arrangements. A number of lorries already purchased and provided with drivers, cleaners and conductors will be used for carrying water and food to the relief centres from the kitchens.

Besides the above, 2 special relief centres for orphaned children and for women who will have no guardians to look after them have also been opened in Calcutta.

As regards other vulnerable towns in the province, similar relief centres with provision for estimated requirement of the total population of the respective areas have either been opened already or are being opened in the industrial areas of 24-Parganas, Hooghly and Howrah and in other towns in various parts of the Province. For other towns which have recently been classified as A.R.P. areas, such relief schemes are now under preparation.

If the city of Calcutta is subjected to heavy and continuous bombing large numbers of people will probably be anxious to leave it simultaneously. Arrangements have been made with the railways for running special trains to cope with this traffic as far as possible and relief camps have been opened at two stations for the provision of temporary shelter and food for people moving to East Bengal.

The capacity of the railways for running special trains is limited and if the rush is heavier than the railways can cope with, people may leave Calcutta by road. For the relief of such people 86 camps with necessary staff, stocks of food stuffs and adequate sanitary arrangements including isolation wards and maternity rooms have been established at regular intervals along the roads which will be kept open to them. These relief camps will be capable of giving shelter to (about) more than two lakhs of people and food to a very much larger number at a time. To make good drinking water available to them on the way, wells have been sunk every 4 miles along these roads. The roads open to such people have also been improved where necessary. A number of rivers intercepting these roads have been bridged and ferry arrangements across the other rivers have been strengthened by the provision of additional ferry boats and boatmen.

Similar relief camps have been or are being established along the roads leading out of other towns.

My Hon'ble colleague in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department has, among his other multifarious duties, to administer the War Injuries Ordinance. That measure was promulgated by the Government of India with a view to making provision for the grant of relief to persons sustaining injuries during the continuance of hostilities. Four whole-time claims officers have been appointed, one for Calcutta, one for 24-Parganas, one for Howrah and Hooghly and one for Chittagong, and part-time claims officers have been appointed in all the other districts of the Province to examine claims and make payments. I do not think that it would be in the public interest for me to give details of claims received after the air raid in the Chittagong area and I must ask the House to accept my assurance that practically all the cases instituted have been disposed of.

We have also had under consideration a scheme for the insurance of the moveable property against war risks, and have received the report of the Committee of Enquiry which was appointed to make proposals on the subject and I welcome this opportunity of expressing Government's appreciation of the assistance which the Committee have given us. We have examined their proposals and have decided on the lines of the recommendations which we should make to the Government of India.

I should now like to give the House some idea of what has been and is being done for those who have had to leave their homes and their land for reasons of military necessity. It was not long after the outbreak of the war in the Far East that pressing demands came from the defence services for the evacuation of certain areas in the coastal belt of the province. In view of the military situation these demands had to be conceded at once and in several districts large areas were cleared within a short time. The necessity for evacuation arose very suddenly at a time when the District Officers had numerous complex and pressing duties but they took as much care of the unfortunate evacuees as was humanly possible under the circumstances. In some areas free transport was provided and temporary shelters were constructed for those who could not readily find accommodation elsewhere; in some others people were paid lump removal costs before they moved and thereafter grants for raising temporary huts. I feel sure, Sir, that the House will appreciate my reasons for not specifying cases more definitely. In view of the hardships involved by evacuation at short notice we left the military authorities in no doubt as to our views about the need for granting reasonable notice and I am glad to say that they have gone far to meet our wishes. At the initial stage when the necessity for quick action was paramount some areas were cleared with as little as 48 hours' notice. From May onwards about a fortnight's notice became more usual while during the rains we have been able to give still longer notice.

In calculating the compensation which should be paid to evacuees we now take the following into consideration:—

Removal costs.

Lump compensation for standing crops, fish in tanks, etc.

Costs of temporary shelter.

Replacement value of kutcha homesteads.

Rent for pucca houses.

Recurring compensation for use of land, tanks, etc.

Lump compensation for loss of earnings.

Compensation for other claims which do not come under any of the above categories.

In addition to what is being paid now people will be paid adequate compensation for all damage to property during the period of dispossession, after the property is restored to its owners. For obvious reasons, it is premature to entertain such claims now.

Great emphasis is laid on prompt payment of compensation. Removal costs and compensation for building temporary shelter are invariably paid before evacuation takes place. Usually replacement costs of kutcha houses and compensation for standing crops, fish in tanks, etc., are paid before removal if possible. Collectors have also been given wide powers to make advance payments to remove hardships. It will I am sure be readily understood that the assessment of a large number of claims arising out of evacuation of areas is a laborious task. There are difficulties regarding possession and title which cannot be lightly brushed aside; there are difficulties in maintaining contact with the evacuees after they have dispersed and therefore in adjudging their claims. In spite of all these obstacles considerable progress has been made as can be seen from the fact that up to the present time now the total area cleared is approximately 75,396 acres, the number of families affected 35,963 and the amount of compensation paid out is Rs. 53,11,258.

The possibilities of finding employment for the evacuees are also under constant examination As a result of representations made by evacuees, they have been allowed to reap the standing crops and to plant fresh crops in some of the abandoned areas.

Evacuee labour is also being given preference in military and other public works wherever possible: and employment can be found for a large number of men in the Civil Pioneer Force which is now being raised. Steps have also been taken to maintain contact with the evacuees after they have moved and to deal with such special problems as they may raise from time to time.

It will be appreciated that the magnitude as well as the complexity of the problems raised by evacuation set a formidable task before District Officers and Government. Distress has inevitably been caused; but we have tried to mitigate suffering and to remove genuine grievances as far as humanly possible.

Nobody likes to be disturbed in the security of his own possessions. Nobody willingly gives up his hearth and home or surrenders his property into strange hands. Almost everybody, if compelled to do so by overriding necessity, will grumble and consider almost any form of compensation offered him inadequate.

In Bengal, military necessity has compelled the withdrawal to specified areas or the removal of certain classes of boats belonging to persons in a denied area. In each case, however, fair and adequate compensation has been paid for the property of which the owner is denied the use. Payment has been as prompt as circumstances have allowed, and complaints have been promptly investigated. The reasons which have compelled us at the request of the military authorities to deny the use of boats to the enemy are well known. It is to prevent the Japanese using them themselves as they have done elsewhere, should they attempt an invasion of these shores. If the Japanese were to attempt a landing in Bengal, it would be a simple matter for them to penetrate inland if they could find ready-made fleets in the shape of the river craft that throng each Bengal's stream. At the time of landing, such boats would be commandeered instantaneously without compensation; the boatmen would become galley slaves and fire screens for the Japanese soldiery, and any reluctance to work for the invader would be met by death or torture. To forestall this, we have ordered the withdrawal of boats to certain areas as far as can be done without causing distress and is in addition awarding compensation on a generous scale. Here again, although the reduction of these means of transport unquestionably entails considerable inconvenience, it would be entirely false to represent such actions as sweeping orders applied with harshness or without close and sympathetic study of their local effects. Hardships there must be but they are as nothing to the disastrous consequences that would ensue were the enemy permitted to make free use of the country's means of transport.

It is clearly recognised both by Government and the military authorities that denial to the enemy of all forms of transport would involve not only an intolerable degree of hardship to the people but would also cause immense difficulties in the maintenance of the civil administration and is therefore not practicable. Accordingly a number of steamers, launches, boats have been allowed to remain in the denial area.

These are launches and boats belonging to and maintained by Government or under the direct control of Government Departments.

Steamers, launches or boats required for the purpose of removing from the denied area surplus stocks of food-stuffs or other commodities or things likely to be of benefit to the enemy.

Steamers, launches or boats required to take into the denied area food-stuffs or other commodities that are essential to the existence of the population remaining in that area.

Small boats such as may be absolutely necessary to enable the population of the denied area to maintain themselves.

To give effect to this denial policy we have ordered the withdrawal of big boats from the denial area, and the owners thereof have been given the option of withdrawing their boats to a safe area and retaining them there until the period of danger has passed or handing them over to Government at one of the various receiving centres which have been established for reception of boats from the denial area. In the latter case the owners are awarded adequate compensation.

As regards the small boats their withdrawal from the danger area is not compulsory but where the owners volunteer to surrender them Government purchase these boats locally and pay compensation on a generous scale.

Arrangements on a liberal scale have also been made for the grant of temporary permits usually for periods of 7 days to enter the denial area for the purpose of—

trade between the denial area and the areas to the north;

conveyance of cattle or seedlings for distant cultivation.

Arrangements have also been made for organising ferry services.

We have taken a variety of steps to ensure that hardship is reduced to the minimum. In case where the crew are employed on a wage basis we pay to the owner the market value of the boat and to the crew if they are not the owners or part owners one month's wages.

In special cases of hardship further compensation not exceeding another month's wages is paid to the members of a crew.

In case of boats hired by the present crew, the owner receives the market value of the boat and the balance of the hire charge due from the date of withdrawal to the end of the term of hiring under the hire contract, while the crew receives one month's average earnings.

In cases where the boat is the sole means of livelihood of the owner, a sum equivalent to three months' average earnings in addition to the market value of the boat may be paid.

Fishermen are encouraged not to part with their boats as it is the intention of Government to get them back to work again under control as soon as practicable. A scheme is already under preparation and the matter has been taken up with the local officers. For the present those who deposit their boats are being paid allowances until final arrangements have been made but most of them are keener on getting the cash compensation for their boats outright. Fishermen who give up their boats permanently receive their full value as well as compensation for loss of livelihood up to 3 months' average earnings.

We have also not forgotten numerous people who may have been hard hit as a consequence of this policy although they did not actually live in the denial areas and keep boats there; and arrangements have been made to extend relief in deserving cases even though they may have no legal claim to compensation.

Up to the 15th August, 1942, approximately Rs. 28,54,424 has been paid as compensation for boats.

I now turn to a subject which is of immediate personal interest to every individual—that of the supply and price of the necessities of life. In this Province the problem is complicated by the fact that Bengal is not self-sufficient as regards any of its food supplies except rice. We depend for

sugar on Bihar, for salt on the western coast ports and places outside India, e.g., Aden, for most varieties of *dal* on Bihar, for oil seeds and mustard oil on the U. P. and Bihar, and so on. Even in the case of rice we have seen the difficulties of securing adequate supplies to the public at controlled prices: the difficulties of price control are greater still when we have no control over the source of supply.

The difficulties of transport have aggravated the problem. Recently, wheat allotments have been difficult to obtain on account of the disturbance to railway communications and sugar imports from North Bihar have almost stopped as a result of local disturbances. This fact accounts for the prevailing scarcity and high price of sugar in Calcutta and the districts, but we have taken steps with the help of the Sugar Controller to get in supplies from elsewhere and they will soon be on their way. In the case of some other commodities, there has been a chronic shortage, for example, the supply of kerosene has been cut by fifty per cent. This means that everyone has got to reduce his consumption.

The House is no doubt aware that we have recently established the nucleus of a Civil Supplies Directorate and I hope that it will not be long before it is working at full strength. Our first endeavour has been to create conditions under which supplies can move readily when needed and the trade itself can operate in a healthy manner. We seek co-operation but if the trade cannot deal with its own black sheep, we may have to apply compulsion. We must always remember, however, that we cannot stand by ourselves. We need the help of other Provinces and must be ready to help them.

Members may be interested to hear something about commodities which have to be imported from outside Bengal On hearing that the Bengal allotments of wheat for August were likely to be heavily reduced, we took up the matter and have obtained an assurance that the special needs of Calcutta will be borne in mind: We feel that the immediate prospects are not unsatisfactory but the House should recognise that wheat supplies are not under our ultimate control.

The question of the supply of *dal* has been taken up with the Bihar Government.

I am glad to say that the position in regard to salt is satisfactory, but efforts are being made to build up increased stocks against future needs. We are also making arrangements with leading dealers for the import of more mustard seed and oil, but the latest information makes it very doubtful whether we shall receive before the Pujas the supply of standard cloth for which we have indented.

The new Directorate of Civil Supplies, is alive to the urgency of the problems with which it is confronted and it is to be hoped that as soon as the various factors which I have referred to have been brought under some sort of control, with the help and co-operation of the Central and other Provincial Governments a substantial improvement in the position of supplies will be effected. Meanwhile, the Province can help itself very considerably

by organising a comprehensive anti-hoarding drive in Calcutta and the districts, with the active support and co-operation organised trade and the leaders of public opinion.

So far I have dealt with subjects which with the exception of Air Raid Precautions are the concern of one or the other of my Hon'ble colleagues. I now ask the indulgence of the House for a few minutes to enable me to say something about matters which appertain to the department of which I myself am in charge.

Two measures which have been put into effect since the House last met are revised provisions for the Civic Guards and the institution of a rural organisation which we have called the Bengal Home Guards.

The House will remember that the Civic Guards were constituted under an Ordinance during 1940. In Bengal in several districts they had done excellent work; we have, however, for some time been disquieted by indications that the organisation was not working as well as we could hope. We thought that its possibilities for good were so great, and the promise which it had shown where it has been working well was so encouraging that we must do everything possible to remove obstacles to further development along satisfactory lines. A senior police officer was therefore placed on special duty to recommend measures for re-establishing the organisation on a sound basis.

The Civic Guard was conceived as a purely honorary force. Without in any way deprecating the work done for the Civic Guards by influential non-officials to whose enthusiasm and public spirit the movement owes so much, it is clear that the success of such an organisation depends largely upon whether or not local officials charged with its development are able to devote to it the continued interest without which no purely honorary body of volunteers can reasonably be expected to maintain their enthusiasm. Partly because most local officers were unable to spare time for detailed supervision of the Civic Guards and for day-to-day association with it and partly because there were certain small causes of dissatisfaction amongst members, the honorary system has broken down and it was necessary for us to devise reforms to set things right.

In the first place we have appointed a number of persons whom we call Adjutants and Quartermasters whose duty is to organise and train groups of Civic Guards and to charge themselves with every detail not only of their efficiency but also of their welfare. These officers were chosen from amongst trained physical instructors who have passed through Mr. Buchanan's school of training; they were posted for some time to assist in training the Civil Pioneer Force Battalion and with the experience there gained have now been allotted to districts. It will be their duty to establish and maintain direct personal contact with officers and members of the Guard and to ensure that any suggestions or complaints are laid before the appropriate authority for consideration and redress. We look to these officers to ensure not only that the Guards are organised and trained to a state of efficiency but that their legitimate requirements are sympathetically considered in a humane spirit and promptly brought to the notice of the authorities.

Then as regards the Guards themselves we have decided that we must be prepared to give allowances to men whom we expect to be available for duty whenever called upon. We have instituted courses of training during attendance at which an amount of pocket allowance of Rs. 3 a month will be given to candidates. When they have passed through this course of training and been enrolled each Civic Guard who attends four parades each month will be entitled to a monthly retainer of Rs. 6. We have also provided that an allowance of six annas shall be made for each tour of duty which a Civic Guard is called upon to perform up to ten such tours monthly.

The rates of duty allowance for officers will be higher; they will draw the same retainer as other members but for each tour of duty they will draw an allowance of Re. 1. We hope to stimulate efficiency and to establish an *esprit de corps* by recruiting officers so far as possible from the ranks. Promotion will depend upon the efficiency there gained and the capacity for leadership there shown and we hope that this will result in increased efficiency and keenness and also in general improvement in tone.

All I can say at present of the progress of these reforms is that it is very encouraging. Adjutants and Quartermasters are settling down to their duties in districts; and in one district at least a number of Guards have already passed through the period of training under the reorganised scheme and qualified for the retainer. There should be no justification in future for the deprecatory references which have sometimes been made to the quality of recruits forming the Civic Guard organisation

The Civic Guard is confined to urban areas. In the rural areas we have set up a Home Guard organisation, many of the details of which are, I expect, known to honourable members. Our object was to organise a trained and disciplined body of men spread over the entire province to meet the exacting demands of the present emergent situation. There was a great volume of public opinion, freely expressed through the press and otherwise, demanding the active association of the people in the protection of Bengal against lawlessness and disorder arising out of any apprehended threat to our security.

To meet this demand, we have been asked to set up an organisation charged with the duty of preserving peace and order, aiding and assisting evacuees or refugees passing through their area, raising and stiffening the morale of the people by discounting and denying false rumours and in the areas more immediately exposed to the danger of hostile action watching for and reporting to the proper military or civil authorities anything of a suspicious nature such as crashed aircraft or suspicious concentration of boats, etc. Home Guards are being organised in parties each under a Captain; it will be their duty to protect their own and their neighbours' families in their own local area and they will not be called upon to serve at any distance from their homes. At the present moment each unit consists of the area of a Union Board, though as the movement grows the area of the units will clearly have to be decreased. We are thus setting up a body of men capable of providing at any time an effective patrol of at least 25 men.

Each party will be a band of friends and neighbours selected by the Captain himself and since the Captain is to be a man chosen for his influence in the locality, this method of selection will ensure that the parties work together in an atmosphere of friendliness and mutual trust. There is no sectarianism in the organisation which is open to all irrespective of political or religious affiliations. The Captain for each unit is chosen with the assistance of a local committee on which two influential local non-officials—one from each community are appointed. We rely upon these gentlemen not only to help in selecting a suitable Captain but for assistance and support to him by encouraging enrolment and by attracting and maintaining public interest. We hope also that they will, in association with the Captain and with the Vice-Captain (who will be appointed when the party has been formed and trained) keep the authorities aware of all matters affecting the Guards or the safety and security of the area for which they are responsible. We look to gun licensees to join the Home Guard and we shall be prepared to bring pressure to bear upon licence-holders either to enrol or to make their weapons available for the common defence. The Home Guard will be a voluntary force, non-political, and non-party, through which the will of the people can be organised to maintain law and order in these troublous times and to arouse and confirm the will of the people to offer united resistance to the enemy.

The organisation of this body has already made strides. Upwards of 5,000 Captains have already been appointed and are organising their parties. Twenty-three Adjutants, after a preliminary course of training, have been posted to districts and have embarked upon a programme of training. It is our intention ultimately to post two of these Adjutants in each district and 4 in the larger districts, and there is at present a course of training being conducted to supply a second batch of Adjutants. For the present we have posted three or four Adjutants in each of the coastal districts in order that work there may be carried on along intensive lines. Their instructions are, as soon as possible after joining, to conduct a course of training lasting for a fortnight for Captains of Home Guard parties and to follow this up by subsequent courses so that training may become rapidly diffused. We have not laid down any rigid rules at present because, in a matter of this kind where much is to be gained by the method of trial and error, we wish to give the maximum scope to local officers who have ideas to try them out and by comparison of results to arrive at improved methods all round. In Chittagong, where there is already an organised system of civil defence parties, the results of the first fortnight's training have been so encouraging that the District Magistrate describes them as being little short of amazing. Mr. Buchanan has been placed in charge of training and organisation and we have before us now a handbook of training prepared by him in which, I am sure, the members will be interested and of which I shall make copies available if members so desire.

About the internal situation following upon the ratification by the All-India Congress Committee of the Working Committee's resolution and

the subsequent arrest of Congress leaders I do not think that I can at this juncture profitably say very much; an opportunity may occur later for a rather fuller statement.

Myself and many of my colleagues deprecated the initiation of a mass movement and assured the public that we were prepared to see that any movement which might be initiated was checked and peace and tranquillity maintained. At the same time we were anxious to avoid action which might precipitate a crisis and we appealed for a settlement which would avert one. Unhappily such a settlement was not effected and although Bengal has been spared disasters on the scale experienced in some other Provinces, there have been disturbances both in Calcutta and elsewhere of sufficient gravity to give cause for serious anxiety. Apart from *hartals* and few demonstrations, instances have occurred in several districts of tampering with or damage done to the permanent way or rolling stock of railway with interruption of railway communications and destruction of instruments. Members are aware of the persistent interference with tramway services in Calcutta and with the damage done to public utility services; this and the attack on A. R. P. depots and wardens' posts which have occurred cannot have any other result than giving assistance to the enemy. There has been sporadic cutting of telegraphic wires in many districts and in certain areas post offices have been attacked and looted. In present conditions, when the enemy threat to our Province has been by no means removed, and when it is essential that communications should be kept open in order that military dispositions may be maintained and no obstacle placed in the way of troop concentrations for any purpose, be it offensive or defensive, interference with railways, telegraphs and postal communications are very serious matters. Collective fines have had to be imposed upon the inhabitants of areas where such acts of sabotage occur and where there is reason to believe that the local inhabitants are concerned in those offences or are harbouring the offenders or are failing to give proper assistance in apprehending culprits and bringing them to book. District Magistrates have been directed to convey a warning to the inhabitants of all areas through which any line of communications passes that they are charged with the specific duty of maintaining the sector passing through their area and protecting it from damage and that they will be held accountable if outrages occur.

With regard to the regrettable incidents arising out of these disturbances, in the course of which the police found it necessary to open fire, I do not wish to make any observations at the present moment because we may have to consider this question more fully in the light of the observations which are going to be made by my friends in the Assembly the course of the discussions which they will have the privilege to initiate on the statement which I am now making before the House.

Turning to Jail Administration I think I should mention that the Tribunal set up in fulfilment of my undertaking to the House during the last session submitted the case of 382 security prisoners to scrutiny and have forwarded their report to Government together with their report and recommendations.

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Panckridge who was Chairman of the Tribunal had completed the draft of his report before his sudden and lamentable demise but we have not yet had time to scrutinise the report and come to any decisions upon the recommendations contained in it. We have, however, taken action on a number of points outside the terms of reference of the Tribunal with the object of mitigating the rigours of detention. The pricipal modifications which we have recently decided upon include an amendment of the rule of diet allowance, increases in the clothing, extended facilities as regards private correspondence and temporary release to visit near relatives in case of critical illness and a more liberal scale of family allowance.

There have been two major jail disturbances; the one which broke out at the Berhampore Special Jail on the 19th May, 1942 and which was handled tactfully by the local officials and about which I do not wish to say anything at the present moment. The second has been the recent unfortunate occurrence in the Dacca Special Jail which took place on the 31st August 1942. The Commissioner of the Dacca Division and the Inspector-General of Prisons have held an enquiry and are soon going to submit their report to Government. I paid a visit to Dacca and had been to see the locality where the disturbances took place and had personal discussion with the security prisoners and other persons inside the jail. I do not wish to make any comment at this stage because statements have appeared in the press from representatives of public bodies and demands have been made by the Mahalla Sardars of Dacca for the establishment of a special Committee of Enquiry to investigate facts and to report the causes of the disturbance and also the manner in which the casualties have been caused. It has been a very regrettable affair and I do not wish at the present stage to say anything further than what I have already stated.

The communal situation has fortunately been satisfactory. We have been able to settle the dispute at Dinajpur and I am happy to say that the immersion rites, which had been long suspended, were amicably completed on the 26th June under arrangements mutually agreed to by members of both communities in the town. It is true that Dacca during the second half of June and the first half of July witnessed renewed disturbances to which a communal colour might very easily have been given. There were unfortunately some casualties sustained by both communities. Prompt measures were however, taken by the local authorities and these were supplemented by the promulgation of the Turbulent Areas Ordinance which had lapsed early in January and by the imposition of collective fines under that Ordinance. We have not been able to ascribe responsibility for these disturbances; a number of political and communal groups are under suspicion of having fomented them, but the general public in Dacca was clearly not prepared to allow these disturbances to develop into communal riots and there was no demonstration at any stage indicating that communal passion had been widely inflamed. Elsewhere communal relations have, I am glad to say, been more friendly than for a considerable time past.

Morning Sitting.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: After consulting the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition, I have decided to hold the sittings of the Assembly in the morning. I have also decided that the Session will begin from 8-30 a.m. to 11-15 a.m. I think the House will agree with me that it would be convenient to have its sitting in the morning.

Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA: Sir, it may not be convenient to have the sittings from 8-30 a.m. Make it 9 a.m., if the Leader of the Opposition agrees.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Members on this side of the House won't have any objection if the meetings are held from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. I agree that it would be more convenient to Mussalman members, and we hope that in view of the special circumstances in which the Mussalmans are placed, non-Muslim members would not raise any objection to accommodate the Mussalman members and would agree to the time proposed.

Mr. A. F. STARK: When we were consulted about this this morning, the suggestion was that meetings would begin from 8-30 a.m. to 11-15 a.m., and there was no suggestion of holding the meetings from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have decided to hold the Session in the morning every day. We shall continue from 8-30 a.m. to 11-15 a.m. That leaves us practically 2 hours and 45 minutes. Generally we hold our sittings for three hours or more and not less than three hours. In the special circumstances I am agreeing to lose 15 minutes, and so I am fixing the time from 8-30 a.m. to 11-15 a.m.

Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA: 8-30 a.m. is very inconvenient for us. Even the Hindu members are agreeable to have the sittings from 9 a.m. Please make it 9 a.m.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: We stick to the arrangement made by our leader. But as the suggestion came from a member of the Government Party, we thought he had the consent of his leader to make that suggestion, and I only replied that we would agree to that. I am not making a demand for changing the arrangement made by our leader. I make it clear I am only agreeing to the suggestion put forward by, I think, the Secretary to the Bengal Government Party.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would request the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition, if he wants to send in any motion, to send it by 3 o'clock tomorrow.

Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA: What is your decision about the time, Sir?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As a *via media*, I suggest that the time may be fixed from 8-45 a.m. to 11-30 a.m. That is the only solution I can offer.

Adjournment.

It being 5-34 p.m.—

The House was adjourned till 8-45 a.m. on Thursday, the 17th September, 1942, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the Provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 17th September, 1942, at 8-45 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (MR. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 176 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Elections in Municipalities.

***11. Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department aware—

(*i*) that in Municipal Elections there is no provision for voting by symbols;

(*ii*) that the right of voting is not extended to all those—

(1) who pay at least Rs.2 per month as house rent, and

(2) who work in factories registered under the Factories Act;

(*iii*) that under the existing rules the right of appointing Election Officers, Election Committees and selecting polling booths, scrutinising nomination papers, etc., is given to the sitting Chairman and commissioners who are themselves candidates for the election; and

(*iv*) that in Municipal Elections under the present rules—

(1) voters are misled while voting or are prevented from voting,

(2) votes of illiterate persons are not recorded in the name for whom the voters want to vote, and

(3) nomination papers of candidates are rejected on flimsy grounds?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has received any representation for the change of these rules?

(*c*) If so, what action, if any, has he taken or proposes to take in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu): (*a*) (*i*) and (*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) Under the Municipal Election Rules, the powers of appointing Polling Officers and Election Committees and of selecting polling centres are vested in the Municipal commissioners at a meeting, while the power of scrutinising nomination papers is given to the Chairman with a provision for appeal to the District Magistrate.

(*iv*) Government have no information.

(*b*) and (*c*) A representation from the honourable member himself has been recently received and it is under consideration.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: With reference to answer (*a*)(*iv*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government attempted to elicit any information on the subject?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: The question has been so generally worded that it is difficult for Government to collect information of the nature indicated, namely, that in municipal elections under the present rules such and such practices obtain. That cannot be correct, because it applies to all municipal elections.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: My question is whether Government tried to elicit any information as to whether voters are misled while voting or are prevented from voting or votes of illiterate persons are not recorded in the name for whom the voters want to vote and whether nomination papers of candidates are rejected on flimsy grounds. I want to know whether these are correct or not and whether Government tried to have any information from any municipality or from the Commissioners

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Occasionally when such complaints are made to Government, they are enquired into.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether appeal lies with the District Magistrate or with the Subdivisional Officer?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Appeal lies with the District Magistrate. It may be heard by the Subdivisional Officer also.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that there are many illiterate voters within a municipality?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Undoubtedly that is so.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government is considering the desirability of introducing the symbol system of voting?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: That is in my answer given already.

General election of municipalities in Burdwan Division.

***12. Mr. J. N. GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing the names of the Municipalities of the Burdwan Division to which general elections are due before, and by the end of March next, giving the dates of elections in each case?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the elections to certain Municipalities have been postponed?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the names of those Municipalities where the election has been postponed;

(*ii*) the dates fixed for holding the elections;

(*iii*) the dates when the Government notification postponing the elections and extending the terms of the said Municipalities were received by them;

(*iv*) the amount spent by each of the Municipalities for the preparation of electoral rolls, etc.;

(*v*) the reasons for withholding the elections and extending the terms thereof; and

(*vi*) whether public opinion was obtained before coming to a decision on the point?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: (*a*) A statement is laid on the Table.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) (*i*) to (*iv*) A statement is laid on the Table.

(*v*) The reasons were stated in the notifications issued by Government, copies of which are laid on the Library Table.

(*vi*) Public opinion was not consulted but the elections were postponed in the public interest on the recommendation of the local officers.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (a) of starred question No. 12.

District.	Muncipality.	Date of general election.
Hooghly ..	Uttarpara ..	23rd November, 1941.
	Arambagh ..	Ditto.
	Champdani ..	22nd February, 1942.
	Bhadreswar ..	Ditto.
Burdwan ..	Burdwan ..	9th February, 1942.
	Kalna ..	21st February, 1942.
	Katwa ..	9th February, 1942.
	Dainhat .	9th February, 1942 (and 11th March, 1942, for a second election under section 26 of the Bengal Municipal Act).
	Asansol ..	9th February, 1942.
	Raniganj ..	Ditto.
Birbhum ..	Suri .	28th February, 1942.
Bankura ..	Vishnupur .	4th February, 1942.
Howrah ..	Howrah ..	16th 17th February, 1942.
Midnapore .	Midnapore ..	7th February, 1942.
	Tamluk ..	12th November, 1941.
	Ghatal ..	5th March, 1942.
	Chandrakona ..	17th February, 1942.
	Kharar ..	Ditto.
	Khirpai ..	Ditto.
	Ramjibanpore ..	25th March, 1942.

Statement referred to in reply to clauses (c) (i) to (iv) of starred question No. 12.

The names of the municipalities where the elections have been postponed.	The dates fixed for holding the election.	The dates when the Government notifications postponing the elections and extending the term were received.	The amount spent by each municipality for the preparation of electoral rolls.
			Rs. a. p.
Bhadreswar ..	20th December, 1942	5th February, 1942 ..	223 7 0
Raniganj ..	4th November, 1942	23rd February, 1942	218 12 0
Asansol ..			590 13 6

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: With reference to answer (c)(vi), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why public opinion was not consulted before postponing the election of this municipality?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: It is difficult to consult public opinion as such. It is presumed that local officers consulted public opinion.

Absence of an appointed member of District Board from six consecutive meetings.

*13. **Mr. ABDUL HAKEEM:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether Government have taken any action under section 18(*c*) of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act of 1885, against any appointed member of the Dacca District Board?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Section 18 (*1*) (*c*) of the Local Self-Government Act gives power only to the Divisional Commissioner. It is reported that one of the appointed members of the Dacca District Board absented himself from six consecutive meetings of the Board held between the 23rd August, 1941, and 31st January, 1942, but as, in the opinion of the Divisional Commissioner, the member concerned had sufficient excuse to absent himself, the Commissioner condoned the member's failure to attend the said meetings.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the member concerned did apply for condoning the absence?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: He did.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are those sufficient excuses on which the Divisional Commissioner came to the conclusion that he was justified in keeping himself absent from the meetings?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: The reasons given by the Divisional Commissioner are set out in some detail. He has separated these meetings into two classes. The first four fell under one category the absence from which was excused on the ground that the member concerned was engaged in public duty as one of the chief officials or probably the chief official of the Government Party in the Bengal Legislative Assembly. So far as the last two meetings are concerned, he was prevented for personal reasons of a domestic nature from attending these meetings and the Commissioner thought that those reasons were sufficient.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government did not consider that the member concerned having public duties elsewhere should have resigned his office of the membership of the district board?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: That was the view which the Commissioner himself had taken. In fact, in his order the Commissioner said: "He had two courses open to him if he found that he could not

fulfil his obligations as a member of the board. The two courses were—(*a*) resignation because he could not serve two masters—the Bengal Legislative Assembly and the district board; (*b*) default for these successive meetings should render himself liable to the less honourable penalty of removal from office by the Commissioner. Unfortunately he appeared to have chosen the latter way and left me to decide whether I should exercise my power under section 18(*1*)(*c*) of the Local Self-Government Act" The Commissioner thought that as it was public duty and as there was no resignation from the Bengal Legislative Assembly, the absence should be condoned.

Appointment of members of Chittagong District Board.

***14. Dr. SANAULLAH:** (*a*) With reference to the reply to starred question No. 18 of the 1st August, 1941, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the exact date when members to the Chittagong District Board are likely to be appointed; and

(*ii*) the cause of delay in gazetting the names of the newly elected and appointed members of the said District Board?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that all the candidates (both successful and unsuccessful) who stood for election to the said Board have not yet got back their deposit money?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the amount of such deposit money?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: (*a*) (*i*) The notification appointing members of the District Board was issued on the 24th March, 1942.

(*ii*) The delay, so far as I am concerned, is due to the fact that, since taking over charge of the Department, I have had to consider the reconstitution of a large number of local bodies.

(*b*) The candidates cannot obtain refund of deposit money in view of rule 3(*3*) of the Rules for Direct Election to District Boards (Part II—Conduct of Elections).

(*c*) Rs.7,100.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বোলবেন কি—তিনি যে বোলেছেন যে তাঁর নানা রকম কাজের জন্য Gazetteএ তাদের নাম প্রকাশ করা হয়নি যাদের নাকি appoint করা হোয়েছে, একারণ ছাড়াও মাঝে মাঝে তাঁরা রাজ পুরুষদের দ্বারাও অনেক সময় বাধা প্রাপ্ত হোয়ে থাকেন কি?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: That is too general a question, and I hope my honourable friend will not insist upon an answer.

Mr. ABUL HOSAIN AHMED: The notification appointing members was issued on the 24th March, 1942. The names have not yet been gazetted. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why steps have not been taken to proceed against the officers for whose gross neglect of duty the names have not yet been gazetted?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Names have been gazetted long, long ago. This is ancient history—this question and this answer.

Supply of fruits and mutton in Calcutta Medical College.

***15. Maulvi MD. ABUL FAZL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether the present contractor for supply of fruits and mutton in the Medical College Hospitals, Calcutta, has recently been fined?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

(*c*) Is it a fact that he is still supplying the fruits and mutton?

(*d*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: (*a*) and (*b*) Yes, the present contractors for fruits and mutton (Messrs. Ganguly Banerjee and Company) were fined Rs.5 in July, 1941, for supplying mangoes of an inferior quality.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The contract was not cancelled as it was considered by the Hospital authorities that a simple fine would be a sufficient penalty.

Grant to Mankundu Mental Hospital.

***16. Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department aware—

(*i*) that there is a Mental Hospital at Mankundu in the district of Hooghly;

(*ii*) that its branch for female patients is located at 78, Lower Circular Road, Calcutta;

(*iii*) that this is the only institution of its kind in this Province; and

(*iv*) that a large number of patients, both male and female, are treated there?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when this institution was last inspected by the Surgeon-General to the Government of Bengal?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of making a grant to this institution?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: (*a*) (*i*) Yes, originally the hospital was at Manicktola.

(*ii*) The printed answer must be corrected, because I myself visited the hospital.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*iv*) Yes (the figures for 1939-40 are 379 indoor and 3,427 outdoor).

(*b*) On the 29th April, 1940.

(*c*) Two proposals have been lately received for—

(*i*) the grant of a licence to the Mental Hospital at Mankundu under the Indian Lunacy Act; and

(*ii*) a capital grant of Rs.15,000.

Government have decided that a licence may be granted provided certain conditions are fulfilled. Proposal (*ii*) is under the consideration of Government.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Is it a fact that there being no sufficient accommodation in Bengal, mental cases are sent outside the Province?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Well, that is true to a certain extent.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Does the Hon'ble Minister consider it necessary that accommodation for mental cases should be increased in this Province?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Most certainly.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: When does he propose to take up the matter seriously?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Well, my honourable friend is aware that there is considerable handicap so far as these nation-building projects are concerned, owing to war.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: With reference to answer (*b*), namely, that the Surgeon-General visited this institution last on 29th April, 1940, is it not proper that Government should think that the Surgeon-General should visit this institution at least more than once in two years?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a question.

Malaria Engineer.

*17. **Mr. ABDUR RASCHID MAHMOOD:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether a notice was published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, dated the 31st July, 1941, inviting applications from male Muslim candidates to fill a permanent post of Malaria Engineer in the Department under the name, Public Service Commission, Bengal; and

(*ii*) whether the same notice has been published again inviting applications from the general public during the current month of March, 1942?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of reserving the same post for the Muslim community only?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Public Service Commission was requested to select a Muslim candidate for the post which was advertised twice. But as no suitable Muslim candidate was available to fill the post, it has subsequently been decided to throw it open to all communities.

(*c*) No. If a suitable candidate is available from among the Muslims he is eligible for recruitment, when it is not reserved for any particular community.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there were any applications received from Muslim candidates?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Well, after the first advertisement as many as a dozen Muslim candidates applied for the post.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any interview was given by the Public Service Commission to these candidates to judge whether there were any suitable candidates amongst them?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I am not quite sure what procedure the Public Service Commission adopted, nor am I in a position to sit on judgment on them.

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: What were the qualifications prescribed for this post?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I am afraid, I am not in a position to enlighten the honourable member on this point from my file.

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any of the Muslim candidates had the requisite qualifications?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Yes, so far as that is concerned, I am in a position to say that Muslim candidates did possess the requisite qualifications.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the duties of the Malaria Engineer?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: His duties are to devise means for the purpose of combating malaria from the engineering point of view.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, having been the Chairman of the Malaria Committee, I happen to know something of these things. The Engineer generally builds or plans. I do not therefore understand whether the Engineer here will have to build houses for mosquitoes. I want to know what are the specific duties that a Malaria Engineer has to perform.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr Siddiqi, it would be better to put another definite question on this point.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why, when the requisite qualifications were possessed by the Muslim candidates no interview was granted and why was it advertised for the third time when qualified Muslims were available?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister had already said that it was on the decision of the Public Service Commission.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Sir, I want to know, who decided that the candidates were not qualified—the Bengal Government or the Public Service Commission?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: The Public Service Commission.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Sir, in answer (*b*) the Hon'ble Minister has said: "The Public Service Commission was requested to select a Muslim candidate for the post which was advertised twice. But as no suitable Muslim candidate was available....." But just now the Hon'ble Minister has said that he is not definite whether the Public Service Commission interviewed the candidates. We think that at least two or three of the

Muslim candidates had the requisite qualifications. May we know, Sir, why the Public Service Commission did not send any name on the ground that there were no suitable Muslim candidates?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I go further. Not only two or three had the requisite qualifications, but all the twelve had. In spite of that, the Public Service Commission came to the conclusion that there were no suitable Muslim candidates available, and the Government was bound by that decision.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: When such was the decision of the Public Service Commission by which the interests of the Muslims were jeopardised, does not the Hon'ble Minister consider it fit and proper to move even His Excellency the Governor, if necessary, in the matter so that justice may be done to the Muslim candidates?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I do not think what the honourable member has assumed in his question is right. When the Public Service Commission found that none of the candidates came up to the required standard, the post was advertised once again for finding out a suitable Muslim candidate according to the standard laid down by the Public Service Commission. When that also failed and the work could not wait, another candidate was sought to be appointed from amongst all communities.

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the decisions of the Public Service Commission are in the nature of a recommendation or in the nature of a final decision?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: They are in the nature of recommendation, but the convention is, at any rate, that it should be accepted if it is repeated in the way in which it was done in this case.

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Since when has this convention been created?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: This convention has always been there. Probably it is more honoured now than it was under the previous Government.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: How many names of Muslim candidates were recommended by the Public Service Commission for this post?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Not one.

Sheristadars and Nazirs of District Judges in Bengal.

*18. **Maulvi ABDUL HAMID SHAH:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the present number of District Judges' Sheristadars and Nazirs in Bengal;

(*ii*) the number of them that are Muslims;

(*iii*) the number of them that are enjoying extension of services; and

(*iv*) the special reasons for these extensions?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of filling up the future vacancies of these posts by deserving Muslims?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many extensions of service have up till now been granted to the district Nazirs of Tippera and Howrah; and

(*ii*) the number of Muslim graduates "serving in these two districts as lower grade clerks" for more than 15 years?

MINISTER in charge of the JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee): (*a*) (*i*) 44.

(*ii*) 9.

(*iii*) 6.

(*iv*) In the interest of efficiency in office administration.

(*b*) As such vacancies are generally filled up by promotion it is not practicable to reserve these for members of any particular community.

(*c*) (*i*) One extension each to the Nazirs of Howrah and Tippera.

(*ii*) Two. In Tippera.

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to question (*a*)(*iii*) as to when the last extension was granted?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I am not in a position to make a statement now. If my honourable friend requires information, the information will be made available to him.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Will the Hon'ble and Learned Minister be pleased to state whether he and his colleagues have finally decided to give the go-bye to the red book recommendations published under the authority of the Chief Minister?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: That question does not arise out of the answers given to question No. 18.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, the question arises in this way, that the Government of Bengal had decided upon a certain ratio——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Put the question straight as to whether Government is sticking to the Communal Ratio Rules.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: All right, I put it in that way.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: So far as the Ministry is concerned, it stands by the Communal Ratio Rules, and so far as the question prefaced by a speech of my honourable friend is concerned, the matter is governed by the Bengal Service Recruitment (Communal Ratio) Rules, 1940, which came into operation after the 17th March, 1939. Clause 2 of the rules is to the following effect——

"2(*1*). These rules do not extend to promotions in the making of which the considerations would continue to be on merits with due regard to the seniority of service."

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the present Government is maintaining the decision of the past Government to the effect that no extension will be granted to Government officials?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: The question is too broad and my answer will be "ours is a freedom which slowly broadens down from precedent to precedent."

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: With reference to answer (*a*)(*iv*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether if these officers were not allowed extension, the administration would have suffered by the appointment of new and qualified young persons in these posts?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: The answer of the district officials is in the affirmative.

Establishment of police outpost in certain unions in Tippera.

*19. **Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state the number of crimes committed in the Unions of Alkara, Gunabati and Jagannath Dighi, police-station Chauddagram, district Tippera, during the last two years?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the distance of the neighbouring police-station from each of these Unions?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the people of the said Unions have submitted a petition to Government for the establishment of a police outpost in each of the Unions?

(*d*) If so, what action, if any, has been taken in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) and (*b*) A statement is laid on the Table.

(*c*) No such petition has been received by Government.

(*d*) Does not arise.

Statement referred to in reply to clauses (a) and (b) of starred question No. 19, of crimes committed in Union Boards Alkara, Gunabati and Jagannath Dighi, police-station Chauddagram.

Name of police-station.	Name of Union	Distance from police-station in a straight line	Cases reported.	Dacoity.	Burglaries.	Theft.	Rioting.	Murder.	Other.
		Miles	*1940.*						
Chauddagram	Gunabati Union Board No XVII	11	5	.	2	.	.	..	3
	Jagannath Dighi Union Board No. XVIII.	9	4		2			.	2
	Alkara Union Board No. XIX.	12	8		5	1	.	.	2
			1941						
	Gunabati	11	8		4	2		.	2
	Jagannath Dighi	9	8		6	1			1
	Alkara	12	15	2	9	..	1	1	2

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in view of the crimes committed in those unions Government think it desirable to establish police outposts irrespective of whether any application has been made or not by those unions?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am not prepared to give any direct answer to this question, but if the honourable member thinks that action should be taken, he can approach Government and the matter will be considered.

Maintenance allowance of the security prisoner Sj. Birendra Kumar Bhattacharjee.

***20. Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Sj. Birendra Kumar Bhattacharjee, a security prisoner now detained in Hijli Special Jail, has applied for an allowance to his family?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the allowance applied for has been granted?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any enquiry was made as to the condition of his family?

(*d*) If so, with what result?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was his income per mensem before his arrest?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) and (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) and (*d*) Do not arise.

(*e*) My information is that he had no fixed income per mensem before his arrest.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell the House how much has been granted as allowance?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: An allowance of Rs. 10 per month has been sanctioned to the mother of the prisoner with effect from the 1st January, 1942. A petition has been received for the revision of the sum and that matter is being considered.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Special Debt Settlement Boards in Dacca.

7. **Mr. DHANANJOY ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Special Debt Settlement Boards in the district of Dacca;

(*b*) the number of them that are represented by Scheduled Castes; and

(*c*) what steps the Government contemplate to take for increasing the number of the Scheduled Castes in those Boards?

MINISTER in charge of the CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT and RURAL INDEBTEDNESS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hashem Ali Khan): (*a*) 24.

(*b*) 2.

(*c*) Whenever vacancy occurs due consideration is given for increasing the number of Scheduled Caste members.

Amount sanctioned division by division from Scheduled Castes Education Fund since 1939.

8. Mr. JAGAT CHANDRA MANDAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing, division by division and year by year from 1939 to 1941, the amount sanctioned for the boy and girl students of the Scheduled Castes of the top four classes as recommended by the Scheduled Caste Education Committee from the Scheduled Castes Education Fund?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. Abdul Karim): A statement is laid on the Table.

Statement referred to in reply to unstarred question No. 8, showing the amount sanctioned for Scheduled Caste boys and girls of the top four classes of High Schools out of the Scheduled Castes Education Fund on the recommendation of the Scheduled Caste Education Committee.

	1938-39	1939-40.	1940-41.	1941-42.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
For Boys—				
Presidency Division	Nil	3,536	17,680	18,096
Burdwan Division .	Nil	1,600	8,000	6,288
Rajshahi Division	Nil	1,736	8,680	15,216
Chittagong Division .	Nil	696	3,480	3,648
Dacca Range ..	Nil	1,080	5,400	9,648
Bakarganj Range .	Nil	3,128	15,640	16,896
Total . .	Nil	11,776	58,880	69,792
For Girls—				
Presidency and Burdwan Division-	Nil	128	640	1,008
Dacca Circle ..	Nil	96	480	1,200
Total	Nil	224	1,120	2,208
Grand Total ..	Nil	12,000	60,000	72,000

Communal ratio of staff under the Education Department in Chittagong Division.

9. Mr. JAGAT CHANDRA MANDAL: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing—

(*i*) the present number of officers, grade by grade, namely,—

(1) the District Inspectors of Schools,

(2) Subdivisional Inspectors,

(3) Sub-Inspectors,

(4) Teachers, and

(5) clerks under the Education Department in the Chittagong Division; and

(*ii*) the number of them that are from—

(1) Muslims,

(2) Caste Hindus,

(3) Scheduled Castes, and

(4) the names of the Scheduled Caste officers?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the question of communal ratio was observed in respect of such appointments?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) A statement furnishing the information is laid on the Table.

(*b*) The Communal Ratio Rules were followed in case of direct appointments made on provincial basis in different grades.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (a) of unstarred question No. 9, showing the present number of officers in permanent posts in the Chittagong Division (excluding Chittagong Hill Tracts, where the Communal Ratio Rules do not apply).

Grades.	Total number of posts.	Number of Muslims	Number of Caste Hindus	Number of Scheduled Castes.	Names of Scheduled Caste Officers	Number of other castes.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
(1) District Inspectors ..	3	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil.	Nil.
(2) Subdivisional Inspectors of Schools.	4	2	2	..	...	....	....
(3) Sub-Inspectors of Schools ..	41	32	6	1	Biseswar Das	1 (Buddhist)	1 post vacant.
(4) B. S. E. S. Teachers of College and Madrasah.	3	2	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil.
(5) B. E. S. Teachers of College and Madrasah.	12	5	7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil.
(6) Head Masters and Head Mistresses in the B. E. S.	7	3	3	Nil	Nil	1 (Buddhist)	Nil.
(7) Assistant Head Masters and Head Mistresses.	7	3	4	..	....	...	....
(8) English Teachers .	66	28	30	..	..	4 (Christian)	4 posts vacant.
(9) Lecturers ..	20	8	10	1	Upendra Nath Biswas	1	....
(10) Senior Classical Teachers' Grade.	16	9	6	..	...	1	....
(11) Vernacular Teachers' Grade ..	27	8	14	.		4	1 post vacant.
(12) Junior Vernacular Teachers' Grade.	17	10	5	..		1	1 post vacant.
(13) Clerical—							
(1) Scale—Rs.125—225 ..	1	..	1	..	...	...	....
(2) Scale—Rs.100—5—150 ..	1	1	.	..	....	....	....
(3) Scale—Rs.90—5—120 ..	1	1	..	..	..	....	...
(4) Scale—Rs. 80—105 ..	1	1	..	..	....	...	....
(5) Scale—Rs. 80—100 .	1	1	.	..	....	....	....
(6) Scale—Rs. 40—100 ..	1	1	.	..	....	....	....
(7) Scale—Rs. 40—85 ..	6	5	1	..	....	....	....
(8) Scale—Rs. 35—80 ..	9	5	4	.	....	....	....
(9) Scale—Rs 45—5 2—70 ..	1	..	1	.	....	....	....
(10) Scale—Rs.35—60 ..	9	5	4	..	....	....	....

Pay of Fazil passed and Matric passed teachers.

10. Dr. SANAULLAH: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Fazil passed Maulvi and Matric passed teachers of the free primary schools are not given the same pay and grade?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of giving same pay and grade to both trained and untrained Fazil passed and Matric passed teachers?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) No. The Final Madrasah (Fazil) Examination is regarded as equivalent to Matriculation for the purpose of recruitment of primary school teachers.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister state the reason why the Fazil-passed teachers will not be given equivalent pay to the Matriculation-passed teachers in primary schools?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: It is the same. The Final Madrassah (Fazil) Examination is regarded as equivalent to Matriculation for the purpose of recruitment of primary school teachers.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is meant by a Fazil-passed Maulvi?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: That is a superior degree of Madrassah Examination.

Damage due to cyclone to secondary schools and madrasahs at Bakarganj.

11. Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of secondary school and madrasah buildings that have been demolished or severely damaged at Bhola and other places in the district of Bakarganj by the cyclone and flood in May, 1941;

(*ii*) the number of the primary school buildings under the District School Board that have been damaged by the cyclone; and

(*iii*) the amount of money estimated for reconstruction or repair of such secondary school and madrasah and the primary school buildings?

(*b*) Have the Government advanced or contributed any money for the construction of such school and madrasah buildings?

(*c*) If so, how much and when?

(*d*) If no money has been contributed, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the amount which he proposes to give for the reconstruction of the said buildings?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) A statement furnishing the information is laid on the Table.

(*b*) Yes. Rs.1,25,000 has been sanctioned for institutions other than primary schools. The District School Boards have been permitted to utilise 5 per cent. of their budgeted expenditure towards reconstruction of primary schools.

(*c*) In the form of a capital grant during the last financial year Rs.30,003 has already been paid to the institutions concerned.

(*d*) Does not arise.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (a) of unstarred question No. 11—number of damaged or demolished buildings.

Place.	(i)				(ii)		(iii)
	Secondary Schools	Madrasahs.			Primary Schools.		Amount estimated for reconstruction or repair.
		High.	Senior.	Junior.	D.S.B.	Aided.	
Bhola ..	21	1	5	32	..	..	For schools other than primary schools approximately Rs.1,28,250.
Other places ..	103	1	5	6	94	1,500	

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how much money was paid as contribution by Government for the reconstruction or repair of school and madrassah buildings in districts other than Bakarganj?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I ask for notice.

Unstarred question No. 12.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Sir, I should like this question to stand over, because on an examination of the record I find that the figures are not accurate and exactly correct.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right. Unstarred question No. 12 is held over.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Does the Hon'ble Minister guarantee that he will answer this question this Session and that it will not stand over till the next Session?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question may come up tomorrow in this Session.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: May we know how many questions have been held over from the last Session?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Possibly 135.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, we just hear from the Hon'ble Minister that the information supplied for which he is responsible is wrong. We want protection that such wrong information should not be supplied to us.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister says that the information will be corrected. Correct figures will be supplied on Monday next.

Short-notice question.

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: May I know, Sir, what has happened to a question for which I gave short notice, in respect of a very important matter, especially concerning two honourable members of this House? Is Government going to give an answer to that question? The question was in respect of the recent arrest of the Chief Whip and General Secretary of the party led by Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, which is now supporting the Government.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is being examined by the Minister concerned.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, we give notices for several questions. We want to request you to see that Government are made to answer those questions during the present Session, because if they adopt the policy of delaying, the importance of these questions will go. If these questions are left over, there is no chance of the questions being answered, because we shall have no winter Session and we know that Government are very afraid of calling another Session.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already requested Government to give answers as quickly as possible. This much I can do. I cannot force the Government to send their replies according to the wishes of this House, but I will request them to send answers as quickly as possible.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: How many questions out of 135 have been answered this time?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. We shall now take up the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education (Amendment) Bill.

GOVERNMENT BILL.

The Bengal (Rural) Primary Education (Amendment) Bill, 1941.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Sir, I beg to introduce the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education (Amendment) Bill, 1941.

The Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I beg to move that the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education (Amendment) Bill, 1941, be taken into consideration.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: Before the Bill is taken into consideration, I have one request to make to Government. In the Bill which is going to amend the Act there is not sufficient provision for any representation of the Scheduled Castes

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order That point can be taken up when the time comes for moving amendments to clauses.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: I want to request the Government to withdraw this Bill.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, I beg to move by way of amendment that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st October, 1942.

Sir, in support of this motion—I do not want to take up much of the time of the House—I would like to submit that this Bill was published in the Gazette in August, 1941. I am sure that not many members of the House have read the Bill; nor do they know anything about its provisions. The members were supplied with copies of the Bill in August, 1941. Since then we have had no occasion to scrutinise this Bill. We find all on a sudden this Bill is included in the agenda for this Session and at such short notice it is not possible for members to send in proper amendments. Besides that, the Bill intends to make very important changes affecting the principle of the whole Act. It was a pet measure of the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq in order to have more power in his own hand. This Bill was drafted and published at his own dictation, but it was never considered at any time at least when I belonged to the party of which the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq was then the leader. It might be said at that time the party supporting Mr. Fazlul Huq was responsible for the Bill, but I would like to inform the House that the practice in those days was that Government sometimes used to bring up Bills without the consultation of the party, but before it was taken up in the House the party used to consider and then decide

whether the Bill should be proceeded with or any amendments which might be considered necessary should be introduced. Thus it would be seen that the party then supporting the Government had had no opportunity of considering the Bill. Therefore no responsibility for the Bill is attached to the party then supporting Mr. Fazlul Huq.

Now, Sir, as I have said this Bill is very important and intends to make very far reaching changes. If the House would refer to the original Act, clause 4, where the constitution of the Central Committee has been laid down, it would be seen that it provides for a board consisting of the following members:—

(*a*) The Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, *ex-officio*.

(*b*) Ten members of whom two shall be elected in the prescribed manner from each of the five divisions of the Province by the members of the district school boards of each division, one to be a Muhammadan and the other a Hindu.

(*c*) Five members should be appointed by the Provincial Government of whom two shall be the representatives of the Depressed Classes.

Sir, this Bill purports to add two members to the Central Committee in clause (*b*) to be appointed by the Government. This is definitely affecting the ratio of nomination. I think it is a question which is very important in principle. Secondly, there is no provision in the Bill to show how the Chairman and the Secretary of this Committee would be appointed. Naturally where there was no provision the inherent right of this Board or this Committee was to elect a Chairman and the Secretary, but this new amending Bill provides that the Director of Public Instruction will be the *ex-officio* Chairman of this Committee and Government will from among the members of the Committee appoint a Secretary. Practically the Central Committee is going to be officialised. Of course, the party now supporting the Government calls itself the Progressive Coalition Party, and I am certain that the principle they are now enunciating is in support of the title that they are very, very progressive—trying to take more power and officialising more and more the Central Committee.

As far as the constitution of the district school board is concerned they are going to introduce more drastic and more reactionary principles. According to the original Act——

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: On a point of order, Sir. Will the Hon'ble Chief Minister do his lobbying outside this House instead of in the House?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: He is not lobbying.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Will you be pleased, Sir, to switch off his microphone because what he is saying reverberates throughout the House. You may see that the Hon'ble Chief Minister is still continuing his lobbying.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not know what they are talking. They may be discussing the Bill. I cannot stop that.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: While the Bill is under discussion the Hon'ble Leader of the House ought to show courtesy to the House and to the member speaking and ought not to indulge in private conversation. Although you cannot stop the Hon'ble Chief Minister from canvassing on the floor of the House, you may be good enough to switch off his microphone because whatever he says is heard all over the House. We cannot go on making speeches when there is such an interruption.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: My business here is to preserve order. It is not my business to see whether any Minister or a member is talking in his place or not. That is not my business. I presume that he is listening to the speech of Mr. Shahabuddin.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: On a point of order, Sir. Firstly, the Hon'ble Chief Minister was not talking to his colleagues, but was canvassing another member. Secondly, I most respectfully submit that you are required to maintain order and see that honourable members do not on the floor of the House talk in a loud manner and disturb the proceedings.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That I will see.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: For the last four and a half years——(Tremendous noise from the Opposition benches in which the voice of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister was drowned.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. While the Leader of the House is making an observation, I hope you will kindly give him a patient hearing.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: But the Leader of the House has not had the courtesy to listen to what has been going on in the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order, please.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: আর তোমাদের সঙ্গে যখন সংগত তখন বুঝি কিছু হোতো না ?

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: On a point of order, Sir. Is the Hon'ble the Chief Minister justified in saying this across the floor of the House in spite of your remarks?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, I was dealing with clause 6 of the original Act which deals with the constitution of the district school board. Section 6 says: When this section comes into force in any district, the Provincial Government shall establish for such district a district school board consisting of the following members, namely: –

(*a*) the District Magistrate, *ex-officio*:

Provided that, on the expiration of two terms of four years mentioned in sub-section (2) of section 10 after the first establishment of the board, the District Magistrate shall cease to be an *ex-officio* member of the board;

(*b*) the Subdivisional Magistrate, *ex-officio*;

(*c*) the District Inspector of Schools, *ex-officio*.

(*d*) the Chairman of the Local Boards, *ex officio*,

(*e*) the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the District Board, *ex-officio*;

(*f*) as many members as there are subdivisions in the district to be elected in the prescribed manner by the members of the district board:

Provided that the number shall in no case be less than two;

(*g*) one member for each subdivision to be elected in the prescribed manner by the members of the union boards, union committees and panchayats within the subdivision:

Provided that the number shall in no case be less than two;

(*h*) as many members as there are subdivisions in the district to be appointed by the Provincial Government:

Provided that the number shall in no case be less than two; and

(*i*) one teacher of a primary school to be appointed by the Provincial Government for the first term of four years referred to in sub-section (2) of section 10 and thereafter to be elected in the prescribed manner by the teachers of primary schools.

The Bill now before the House amends this clause the effect of which in the case of a district with two subdivisions will be as follows:—

(*a*) the District Magistrate;

(*b*) the District Inspector of Schools;

(The above two are *ex-officio* members.)

(*c*) two subdivisional officers, *ex-officio*; and

(*d*) two nominated members and nine elected representatives including the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the District Board who will be *ex-officio* members of the board.

The above gives us a board of 15 members. But according to the proposed amendment a district having two subdivisions will have a board consisting of the following members, namely:—

(*a*) the District Magistrate, *ex-officio;*

(*b*) the District Inspector of Schools, *ex-officio*;

(*c*) three subdivisional officers, *ex-officio*, although in the case of a district with two subdivisions only two subdivisional officers were to be selected according to the provisions in the original Act;

(*d*) eight nominated members, although in the original Act there is a provision for only two;

(*e*) nine elected members.

It will thus be seen that out of a total number of 22, 13 will be officials *ex-officio*, or appointed members, and only nine will be elected representatives of the district, whereas according to the original Act on a board of 15, six would have been *ex-officio* officials or nominated members and nine elected representatives. And I may in this connection remind the House that the original Act was passed long before the Government of India Act of 1935 came into force. These were the days of dyarchy when the Ministers were not responsible to the Legislature to that extent as they are now. It is really strange that in these days of Provincial Autonomy when a Progressive Coalition Party is supporting the Government, Government have come up with a proposal for constituting a district school board of which out of a total of 22 members 13 are *ex-officio* officials and nominated members and only nine are elected representatives of the people. In this connection I would make a special reference to the party which is known as the Krishak-Proja Party and to its leader, the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed who, if I remember aright, made it one of the chief issues for his resigning from a previous Cabinet, because according to him the then reactionary Cabinet did not agree to abolish the system of nomination. (Mr. GIASUDDIN AHMED: We still adhere to that principle.) I am very glad to have this assurance from the Assistant Whip of the Krishak-Proja Party, Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed, that his party still adheres to that principle, and I hope that they will see to it that the principle of nomination is not being given effect to in this Bill. I hope with your permission, Sir, we will have an opportunity of moving an amendment to delete or abolish the system of nomination when Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed and his party will give us their wholehearted support. I do not think my friend Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed can escape the responsibility by saying that this Bill was drafted by the previous Government or that he and his party have no responsibility. I have in my opening remarks explained that at least it should be the practice that the Government should not be allowed to bring up any measure before the House without first obtaining the consent and approval of the parties supporting the Government, and I am sure that whoever might have been the author of this Bill, before the present Government have brought this Bill or before the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Bill had occasion to introduce this Bill in this House, he had obtained the sanction and

approval of the party supporting him. If he had not, then I am sure—of course it is not my business—the party ought not to support a measure if they find that the measure is going against their established principles and they must either ask the Hon'ble Minister to withdraw the Bill or oppose it.

Sir, I am sorry I wandered away from my point which I was making. Now, Sir, this Bill, although it has been published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, has not been circulated or sent to any important authority for eliciting public opinion. My motion is not an obstructive motion. I want only one month's time—31st October. It is September and I want only one and a half months' time for circulating the Bill for the definite purpose of eliciting public opinion, and I am sure I will get the support of my friend Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed and his party. (Mr. GIASUDDIN AHMED: We do not support circulation.) Sir, my point is, let us find out whether today in the country there is not a volume of opinion against this increase of nominations and thereby officialising these local bodies. It is a very important educational problem and it is our intention now that more control and more power should be transferred to the people. But by this amendment Government is taking away the rights and privileges and powers that were given, not to a very great extent, by the original Bill. My proposition is to circulate it and find out the opinion in the country whether it supports these principles which have been enunciated by the Government in this measure. With these remarks I commend my motion.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today this House is confronted with a piece of legislation of progressive nature of the highest order. On the floor of this House we have heard the thunderous voice of the Hon'ble Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee protesting against the officialisation of secondary education. In this House we have heard the emphatic protest of the Krishak-Proja Party against the introduction of nomination. We have heard times without number that the Krishak-Proja Party could not join the then Coalition Government because the Coalition Government were supporting nomination—that was said to be one of the main reasons. I ask my friends sitting over there, what will be their position today?

Sir, we know this Government have shown the example of making progress in various ways. We have seen that in the matter of the Bogra District Board. The Hon'ble Minister in charge of Local Self-Government did not allow the Chairman who sent the letter of resignation to withdraw that letter but made appointment of the Chairman of that district board in a person belonging to his party. We know, Sir, he gave nomination to that gentleman though he was not even a voter of that constituency. He gave nomination to a member thereby increasing the full strength of the board——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How do you connect that with this motion? I hope you will be relevant.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: On a point of order, Sir. What has the Bogra District Board got to do with this Education Bill?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That I have already said. That is no point of order.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: These are points which are very unpalatable to my friend Charu Babu. One day we had a talk with him regarding the introduction of the Village Self-Government Act.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Sir, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point?

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: My point is this. My friend Mr. Biswas has, in the course of his discussion, dragged the name of Charu Babu with whom he had a personal discussion in some particular place in connection with this Bill. My point of order is that such personal discussion cannot be referred to in a speech. Such discussions are not allowed to be referred to.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: I did not mention the name of Charu Babu on the ground that I had some talk with him on some particular points somewhere outside the House. I had a talk with him regarding an amendment of the Village Self-Government Act. My friend was kind enough to introduce on the floor of this House a new Bill by which he tried to do away with nomination.

Sir, I ask my friends of the Krishak-Proja Party and the Congress Party with what face they dare to bring forward a legislation which is going to officialise primary education in this country. I do not like to take much time of the House, but I only ask them whether it is the policy of the Progressive Coalition Party to do away with the principle of democracy for which they are crying hoarse. I ask them whether the Hon'ble Chief Minister, who is under the complete influence of his big colleague, cannot wait for a month and give opportunity to the public to express their views on the Bill. It is a very important piece of legislation which is going to do away with the principle of democracy, which is going to do away with the right of the public to elect their representatives on the board which will guide the destiny of primary education in Bengal. In this matter I appeal to the Hon'ble Chief Minister to give at least one month's time to the public to give expression as to the way in which the Bill is to be amended. May I ask him, Sir, why is he in such a hurry? Is it because the Hon'ble Chief Minister finds it very difficult to have his nominees in the executives of district school boards throughout the province? Is it because the Hon'ble Chief Minister thinks that his unpopularity is driving his party away from every school board and that is why he is trying to pass this unpleasant piece

of legislation doing away with the principle of democracy? I ask him to wait; I ask him to have the verdict of the country. It is not a long time for which we are asking him to wait. After a month or so, the Hon'ble Chief Minister may call this Legislature and in view of the public opinion expressed by the country, he may have his Bill passed. It is only a very short time. I ask him to wait and give consideration to public opinion. If after waiting for five months Bengal was not drowned and if waiting for five or six months after the last Session Bengal could be saved and primary education was not drowned, I think one month will not matter much. If the Hon'ble Chief Minister has got any consideration whatsoever for public opinion, he should wait. I know, Sir, that when the country and the Muslim community in particular was demanding amendment of the Bengal Secondary Education Bill, the Chief Minister in order to show some concession to his big colleague all on a sudden agreed to circulate it. May we expect that the Chief Minister will go forward to show that sort of consideration to public opinion at large. It is not a question of Muslim opinion; it is not a question of Hindu opinion; it is not a question of Christian opinon, but it is a question of the public opinion of Bengal. If the Hon'ble Chief Minister claims to represent public opinion on the floor of this Legislature, if the Hon'ble Chief Minister says that he is representing public opinion, he should go forward and act up to the tunes of public opinion. I appeal to him to come forward with a declaration that he will give at least one month's time.

With these words, Sir, I support the motion moved by my honourable friend.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Sir, may I just draw your attention to the Bengal Assembly Procedure Rules——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order order. Mr. Shahabuddin's motion need not be discussed further. I will allow only one more speaker from the Opposition benches to speak on this particular motion, provided the member does not repeat the same arguments advanced by others.

Point of Order.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: On a point of order, Sir. I draw your attention to the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules Section 60 of the rules says: "Any member who wishes to move an amendment to any Bill under the consideration of the Assembly shall give notice thereof except so provided in rule 77, at least ten days before the first day on which the Bill is to be taken into consideration by the Assembly and shall, together with the notice, send a copy of the amendment which he desires to move."

Now, Sir, I refer to the notice issued by the Secretary of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Department, dated the 8th September, wherein the agenda has been put down. The agenda runs thus: On the 15th September 1942, will be taken up the Bengal Turbulent Areas Ordinance, 1942, and

then the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education (Amendment) Bill, 1941. This was sent on the 8th or on 9th September. Now, Sir, we who come from the mufassal generally live in the interior of the villages and we received this at the earliest on the 11th. Another notice from the Legislative Assembly Department was issued and it is dated the 9th September. Herein it has been said: "I am desired to inform you that in the Session of the Bengal Legislative Assembly commencing on the 15th September, 1942, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. Abdul Karim, Minister in charge of the Education Department, will introduce the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education (Amendment) Bill, 1941, copy already circulated, and will thereafter move that the said Bill be taken into consideration and that the Bill as settled in the Assembly be passed."

Now, Sir, I particularly bring to your kind notice the agenda. I do not find any clause in the Procedure Rules by which even Government can waive ten days' notice with regard to the Government amendment if any Bill originates from the Assembly. Of course, the Government have got the right and the Speaker also is quite at liberty to allow amendments at shorter notice in cases where the Bills originate from the Council and are sent to the Assembly. In this connection, Sir, may I be permitted to refer to section 77?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. I cannot allow you any more time. In exercise of the power vested in me I have noted your point and my decision is this: I have suspended the rule and I have allowed this to be moved. (Uproar.)

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: May I refer, Sir, to section 77—— (Uproar.)

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, I respectfully submit that as far as my knowledge goes, these rules cannot be suspended unless we go through the procedure by which the rules were framed. I am speaking subject to correction. Of course this can be verified. I respectfully submit, Sir, for your consideration that very likely you have made a statement without taking all the facts into consideration. I ask you kindly to consider whether you have got the authority to suspend the agenda. The point raised by my friend over here was this, that it was physically impossible for members to submit amendments to this Bill in the time that was allowed. The notice was posted on the 9th from Calcutta or possibly on the 10th. In the mufassal it could not reach before 11th or 12th. If they wanted to submit amendments it would not be possible for the amendments to reach here in the time that was allowed.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have considered your point. You know, Sir Nazimuddin, that I have got power to accept amendments at short notice. Up till now no member has given notice of any amendment. Yesterday I suggested in my chamber to your Chief Whip that I was entitled to receive even verbal notice of an amendment under section 60.

Even that up till now I have not received. I would certainly have allowed any amendments that you might like to move as a special case, but up till now I have not received any notice to that effect. I am helpless in this matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: May I intervene and make a suggestion? I do not wish to say anything which may be taken to be provocative, but I would ask my friends on the other side to remember that this Bill was drafted after mature consideration and we got the approval of my friends on the other side. (Cries of "No, no" from the Opposition benches.) You can always contradict me, but let me finish. I say that we got the approval of my honourable friends. (Cries of "No, no" from the Opposition benches.) You deny it? (Some members from the Opposition benches: "Yes.") All right. I say that we did and you say that we did not. The matter rests there. As a matter of fact, this Bill came up for consideration in the Cabinet. It was published in the Gazette, but not one of the members on the other side even told me or made any representation to the members of Government that it was a wrong Bill and ought not to be proceeded with.

Certain circumstances over which we had no control prevented the Bill from being brought before the House. It has been brought, I admit, at a short Session of the Assembly and the objection that the Opposition members have not had time to consider it and put in necessary amendments is a well-founded objection. I realise it and I suggest that this Bill be not proceeded with today and be taken up on the 23rd or 24th on the last day which will be fixed for Government businesses. In the meantime if the members of the Opposition will have the goodness to discuss with me their main objections, I shall be prepared to discuss the situation with them and after discussion if I decide that Government will proceed with the Bill they will have an opportunity of putting in any amendments they like. It is no use wasting the time of the House this morning. That is the suggestion I am making, namely, that we stop today and take up the Bill some time later on, *i.e.*, next week on the 23rd or 24th September.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is as regards the clauses of the Bill. But these motions must be disposed of today.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Yes.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: I rise on a point of order, Sir. As regards the suggestion of the Hon'ble Minister, it will be replied to by my Hon'ble Leader. But, Sir, I want to draw your kind attention to section 74 and want your ruling on the point. That section says that the Speaker has got the right to accept motion at shorter notice, but the section relates to the procedure regarding Bills originating in the Council and sent to the Assembly and that section says "any member on behalf of the Government in the case of a Government Bill or in any other case, any member after giving ten days' notice or with the consent of the Speaker at shorter notice,

may move that the Bill be taken into consideration." So, Sir, the Hon'ble Speaker has got the right to waive the time and accept motions at a shorter notice provided it is a Government Bill and that it has emanated from the Council and sent to the Assembly. Section 77 says "If the motion made under rule 74 that the Bill be taken into consideration is carried, the Bill shall be taken into consideration and the provisions of these rules regarding consideration of amendments to Bills and the subsequent procedure in regard to passing of Bills originating in the Assembly shall apply." The provision of the rule regarding consideration of amendments to Bills says that the period of notice of amendments shall be at least seven days, and that the subsequent procedure in regard to the passing of the Bill originating in the Assembly shall apply. The procedure mentioned in section 77 is with regard to the Bill that has come from the Upper House to the Lower House and that is seven days. So, I beg to have a ruling from you with regard to that section wherein it is said that the Hon'ble Speaker has got the right to waive the time with regard to amendments even if they are moved by the Opposition Party in a Bill originating from the Assembly.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That has nothing to do with this Bill. The Hon'ble Leader of the House has made his suggestion as regards giving notices of amendments. What your party wanted was that they should be allowed some time to send amendments to clauses and the Leader of the House suggested that the Bill be taken up clause by clause on the 23rd and that you would thus be given time to send amendments to clauses either today or tomorrow. In the meantime, I would finish the motion for consideration of the Bill and the amendments Nos. (1) and (2) of Mr. K. Shahabuddin.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I submit so far as I understood from the Hon'ble Chief Minister that he wanted to discuss with the Opposition the merits of the Bill and therefore he wanted that the discussion should cease now so that we might get an opportunity of sitting with him and discussing the merits of the Bill. As a result of our discussion we may accept the suggestion of Government or Government may materially alter the Bill and may not proceed with the Bill clause by clause. I hope that the suggestion of the Hon'ble Chief Minister may kindly be accepted by you and the House adjourned today. By so doing, you will give us an opportunity, if necessary, to continue with this amendment or we may withdraw it after our discussion with the Hon'ble Chief Minister. But if as you suggest the two amendments are disposed of today, then the value of discussion with the Hon'ble Chief Minister will be very much reduced. I therefore suggest that as the Government have come forward to discuss the matter with the Opposition, you will kindly agree and adjourn the House just now.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Am I to understand that the Chief Minister wants to postpone further discussion on this Bill today or is it his idea that the consideration of the Bill clause by clause may be postponed to 23rd or 24th after disposing of the motion for circulation and the motion for referring the Bill to a Select Committee today?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: This motion for circulation ha been practically discussed and the allied motion has also been discussed So they might be disposed of today.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: When the Hon'ble Chief Minister discusse with the Opposition it may be that he may be willing to accept ou suggestion. It may be that Government may not like to proceed with th Bill. If the circulation motion and the other motion for referring the Bil to a Select Committee are disposed of today, then the Opposition will b greatly handicapped in discussing with the Government. Not only that; i will be a waste of time of the House, because on the circulation motion w shall have to speak and as this is a very important Bill I hope you wil allow us more time so that it might be discussed fully. We thought tha you would allow us one day to discuss the motion for circulation. Ther are many points which we want to put forward. It would take a lot of time Mr. Shahabuddin has not exhausted all the arguments. I would therefor appeal once again to the Leader of the House that he should stick to hi original suggestion that the Bill be not proceeded with today. The word "proceeded with" were there and I may remind the Hon'ble Chief Ministe of those words. He will find if he refers to the official record that he ha used the very words "that the Bill be not proceeded with." Proceeding wit the Bill includes the consideration of the motion of Mr. Shahabuddin.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is no use interpreting the Hon'ble Chie Minister's words like that. I understand that Government are not prepare to stop further discussion. They want to proceed with the motion fo circulation of the Bill and with the other motion for referring the Bill to Select Committee. With regard to the further stage of the Bill Governmen are prepared to give some time to the Opposition members to move amend ments to clauses.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: May I make a fervent appeal to Govern ment? A very important question of principle has been raised in this Bill namely, whether an elective majority should be reduced to a minority There is a general feeling in the country that nominations as a whole shoul be abolished. By this Bill the number of nominations is being increased.

I remember that in 1930 the Congress Party walked out of the Hous when the Rural Primary Education Bill was being discussed because ther was a larger leaven of nominations than they liked. In this particular Bil alterations in the composition of the Board from nine elected and si nominated to nine elected and thirteen nominated have been proposed. I the circulation is opposed, I do not think it would be worth while for th Opposition to meet the Hon'ble the Chief Minister or any member c Government on this point because if the Ministry sticks to the principle c increasing the number of nominations and takes a vote of the House o that point, then the details of the Bill do not matter at all. But if th

Hon'ble Minister thinks that a way can be found for adjustment with the Opposition, or that we may come to a compromise, then I would ask him not to proceed with the Bill today.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AULAD HOSSAIN KHAN: Sir, I beg to support the motion of Mr. Shahabuddin. The Bill has two objects in view. One is that there is no provision by which representation can be given to special interests in any areas and the second point is that the representation of local interests is likely to suffer when local boards would be abolished. These are the two points given by the Hon'ble Minister. As regards local areas if the local boards be abolished, of course, there would be one more election for each subdivision, but where is the justification for the eight nominations altogether? Moreover, one point is very clear. The income is derived from the Education cess mainly derived from the poor cultivators but there is no provision for the representation of the poor cultivators. Of course, the Hon'ble Minister may say that by indirect election through union boards they may have their representation but that is not the fact. If any representation is necessary of the poor cultivators and the zamindars who pay the Education cess, I think the principle of election should be adopted instead of increasing the number of nominations on that score. In a district like Dacca or Barisal with three subdivisions, there will be five Subdivisional Officers including the Sadar Subdivisional Officers, eight nominated members, two nominated female members, and the District Inspector of Schools. These make a total of 16 nominated members whereas by election, taking the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the District Board as elected representatives, we can have only 12 or 13 members. I cannot therefore understand how the members of the so-called Progressive Coalition Party can support a measure of this kind. I do not know whether they are progressive in the forward or backward direction. I appeal through you, Sir, to the members of the Progressive Coalition Party not to proceed with a measure of this kind. Today they may think that all these nominations are very good but one day the tables may be turned and it may so happen that they will fall in the same trap. Therefore, I appeal through you, Sir, to the members of the opposite party not to rush this Bill through this House in this unusual hurry. Sir, I once again support the motion of Mr. Shahabuddin.

(At this stage some of the members of the Opposition benches rose to speak.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the motion of Mr. Shahabuddin has been fully discussed, and I propose now to put it to vote. There are other motions, particularly of Mr. Shahabuddin, which have got to be disposed of today. I have not allowed a single member of the Government side to speak. (Loud noise from the Opposition benches asking for continuing the debate.)

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: May I ask you, Sir, to give me an opportunity to speak. As far as my memory goes, in the past motions for

circulation have been discussed in this House for a whole day and in some cases for two or three days. Here in this Bill I should like to point out that although the number of clauses are a few, the principle involved is of very great importance for this reason that you are changing by this Bill an elected majority into a minority by means of increasing the number of nominated and *ex-officio* members. Therefore this Bill is of equal importance with other Bills having a large number of clauses. Here on our side only three members have spoken and as has been pointed out by Mr. Fazlur Rahman, other aspects of the Bill have not been put forward. I may observe that Khan Bahadur Maulvi Aulad Hossain Khan has placed entirely new points. Similarly, there are other members who have other points of view to place before the House. We want a full discussion on the Bill in the House today and at the end of the day the motion may be put.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I draw your attention, Sir Nazimuddin, to rule 15 of the Assembly Procedure Rules which says, "The Speaker, after having called the attention of the Assembly to the conduct of a member who persists in irrelevance or in tedious repetition either of his own arguments or of the arguments used by other members in debate, may direct him to discontinue his speech."

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: May I point out, Sir, that you may stop one particular member if he insists on repetition but you cannot muzzle all the speakers who want to add their voice of protest. One speaker may repeat but you cannot put the motion to the House and debar us from expressing our views. If we are irrelevant, if we are nonsensical, stop us certainly, but one member and not the whole side altogether.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Sir, I move that the closure motion be now put.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am to begin my speech under a threat from you. Though I begin with this handicap I will try and show you with what motive the Government of Bengal, particularly Mr. Fazlul Huq, has been actuated in introducing this Bill before this House in such an indecent hurry. Sir, you know that the Bill was gazetted in 1941 and no opportunity was given to the members to discuss the Bill. The Bill has been before them this session and this is a short session and no member was prepared to expect a Bill like this which involves such drastic changes in accepted principles.

Now, Sir, before I refer to the Act itself, the object of this Act was to ensure the representation of elected representatives to a greater extent than the nominated or official representation of the Board. By this ingenious method Mr. Fazlul Huq has reduced the representation of elected members by increasing the nominated and official block. Sir, if you look at the constitution of the central committee you will see that the central committee was designated in the original Act as a non-official body though the Director of Public Instruction was an *ex-officio* member, but there was no provision

in the Act to say that the Director of Public Instruction would be the President of the central committee. Mind that, Sir, the central committee will be directing the policy of the primary education in the province. Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee, who was always anxious that education should be free from the control of the Government, today is a party to this measure. Perhaps it suits his purposes. Therefore, Sir, you will see what a drastic change it is, what a change-over in giving up the principle! Now education is going to be officialised, not only officialised but it is going to be mercilessly controlled by the Government. Now the Director of Public Instruction under the new Bill is going to be the Chairman of the central committee. Then you have noticed that the Secretary should be appointed from among the members. Why he should be appointed by the Government and not be elected by the Board itself? The Government is not sure whether the Board will elect a person who will be liked by Mr. Fazlul Huq. Sir, Mr. Fazlul Huq having lost his hold on the people outside this House is now resorting to measures by which he can impose local bodies of his choice upon the people of Bengal. He has imposed today this undesirable Government and undesirable party on the people of Bengal. He is not satisfied with that; now he is proceeding to impose undesirable local bodies of his choice upon the people of Bengal. I will show, Sir, what was his motive. You remember, Sir, that the first non-official President of the Mymensingh district was elected and he was a Muslim Leaguer. That was too much for Mr. Fazlul Huq and wherever the District School Board election has been held and wherever the President is a non-official one he has been elected from the Muslim League and this could not be tolerated by Mr. Fazlul Huq. Mr. Fazlul Huq even today cannot go out on tour. How will he be able to go out on tour when the local bodies are not in his hands. Therefore he thinks that the Presidents must be nominated persons when the District Magistrates cease to be the Presidents of the District School Boards. In Dacca and Mymensingh elections were set aside with a view that after having passed this Bill he will get a man elected by the nominated members and he will get a man of his own choice. Today we will see the attitude of the European Group with regard to principles. Today we will see what they are going to do when a Bill like this is being proceeded with by the Government.

Now, Sir, in Mymensingh in an extraordinary manner the election of the non-official President of the Mymensingh District School Board was declared illegal by Mr. Fazlul Huq. Then he took five months to consider that question and he deliberately did it. Then, Sir, the President of the District School Board of Dacca will be elected soon and he will be a non-official member. Though the election was due on the 1st of September he has not done it. His Government has not allowed the District Magistrate to do it because he wanted to bring this Bill before this session and get it through and get his members nominated on the District School Board of Dacca and get a man of his own choice. The District Magistrate is going to cease to be the President of the District School Board of Dacca on the 1st of October and according to the election rules election was due on the 1st of September, but perhaps under the direction of Mr. Fazlul Huq the election was not held

on the 1st of September by the District Magistrate of Dacca, possibly because Mr. Fazlul Huq had this Bill in mind and thought that after having this Bill through this House he would get his man elected. You can easily see the worst motive by which Mr. Fazlul Huq and his Government are actuated to push this Bill through in the Legislature in a hurry. Then, Sir, as I said, perhaps good sense prevailed in Mr. Fazlul Huq and Mr. Fazlul Huq wanted to discuss this matter with the Opposition. Perhaps it was a momentary fit of good-will on the part of Mr. Fazlul Huq but his friend Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee did not allow him to do so. He at once put Mr. Fazlul Huq aside and said "No, no, though you had given a solemn promise I am not going to swallow that." It was perhaps through the intervention of an irresponsible man of this House like him that he did so.

Now, Sir, as I have said Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee intervened and then the Chief Minister came with a changed view. (Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee: Absolutely untrue.) Therefore, Sir, I have placed before you that this is the blackest motive by which this Government has been actuated. There will be no school boards which will very soon——

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: May I make one request? (Uproar.)

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, I find that these school boards which are going to be established in different districts will have undesirable non-official persons in place of the District Magistrates, and he wants to do this in order to get people of his own choice elected as Presidents. The object of this Bill is to replace the District Magistrates by non-official persons as Presidents of the District Boards. This is one point.

Then in respect of Mr. Fazlul Huq's proceeding with the Bill which will provide for more officials and more nominations in place of elections, it will be seen that the whole of the original Act is being changed—absolutely changed, and this is a thing which Mr. Fazlul Huq is trying to do by force of his majority and at a time when the elections are not there. If Mr. Fazlul Huq held an election, this House would have been turned into a House against him, but today the war conditions are in his favour. I would ask: is it fair, is it just that he should come forward to this House with a Bill to the principle of which this Province has not been accustomed for decades. Not only that; only the other day Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee, when the Secondary Education Bill was before the House, was trying to explain to the country saying "Look here, this is the kind of Secondary Education Bill which is going to be introduced by the Government. Therefore I have nothing to do with this Bill." If this Bill is passed, the principle to which this Province is committed would be given a go-bye. Therefore, Sir, I do appeal to the Government and Government supporters that they should change their attitude even now and they should not proceed with this Bill. Not only that, there is a greater justification for the circulation of this Bill. There was a recognised principle and that principle is going to be changed, and therefore it is all the more necessary that this Bill should be

circulated. Nobody took serious notice of this Bill when it was published in 1941. It had not been sent to any local bodies or district school boards or to the District Magistrates for their considered views. I would therefore request Government to accept the motion for circulation and see whether the Province is prepared to accept the principle of nominations in place of elections. In the Bill I also find that the representation of an important section of a community of this Province, I mean the Scheduled Castes, is very, very inadequate and insufficient, and therefore, I request you to see that this Bill is circulated.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education (Amendment) Bill, 1941, is now before the House. I want to support the motion just now moved by my honourable friend Mr. Shahabuddin.

In the previous Act of 1930 we find that there are only five members who are elected by direct vote by members of union boards who can elect one member from each subdivision. Five Subdivisional Officers, District Magistrate and all other non-official members are elected by indirect vote. The Chairman of the Local Board is an *ex-officio* member, the Chairman of the District Board is also an *ex-officio* member and five or as many members as there are subdivisions are elected by the district board. So, in the previous Act, the public had absolutely no chance of electing members to the district school board. The district school board is the most important body so far as primary education is concerned, but even in the previous Act it did not give any chance to the public in general to elect any other member. It is only the union boards which could elect as many members as there were subdivisions and all other members were *ex-officio* members and officials only

Now, Sir, we expected that when the Progressive Ministry has been formed a Bill providing for an elective basis would be brought forward, so that the public may have a chance to guide the destinies of the district school boards in the way that they desire, but instead of doing that they have provided for increased nomination. That is they have given representation to women by means of nomination. I do not think that women are so weak that they should want to come through nomination. Government have proposed to give two nominations to women alone. Women are now sufficiently educated to come by election. In the Legislature also they have come by election and not by nomination. Even in the case of women I do not see why they should be brought in the district school boards by nomination. If Government think that women should be given representation in the district school boards that can be better done by election than by nomination. I do not think that women are still so weak and are so fragile that they are not strong enough to come to the board through the elective machinery. In the Central Board also previously it was contemplated that there would be 16 seats. One is the Director of Public Instruction and 10 members from the five subdivisions, one Hindu and one Muslim and five members to be appointed by the Local Government of whom two should be given to the Scheduled Castes. Now, so far as that

board is concerned, two nominations have been given to women. I think that in that body if Government so desired women could have come by election, but Government has not given any chance to the women to come by election. In the district of Mymensingh the statutory term of years for the District Magistrate to remain the President of the Board came to an end on the 31st March, 1942, and the date of election was fixed on the 21st of February, 1942. But for reasons best known to Government the election was postponed till 28th February by an order of the Government of Bengal. The election took place on the 28th February, and a non-official member belonging to the League or rather the Secretary of the District League was elected as President of the District School Board of Mymensingh by seven to fifteen votes. Government nominee secured seven votes and League nominee secured fifteen votes and six votes were rejected by the District Magistrate. Even after the expiration of statutory period the official President continued to hold office up to the 5th May in contravention of all rules and the provisions of the Bengal Primary Education Act. Sub-section (*6*) of section 10 of the Bengal Primary Education Act says: "He will cease to be a member on the expiration of two terms of years provided on the expiration of two terms of 4 years mentioned in sub-section (*2*) of section 10 after the first establishment of the board the District Magistrate shall cease to be an *ex-officio* member of the board." Sub-section (*a*) clearly lays down that the District Magistrate shall cease to be a member of the board on the expiration of two terms of four years.

Now that time expired on the 31st March, 1942. In spite of the mandatory provisions of the Bengal Primary Education Act, the Government of Bengal allowed the District Magistrate of Mymensingh to continue in office up to the 5th of May, 1942. They did not move their little finger. They did not ask the District Magistrate to vacate his office and make it over either to the Vice-President or to the non-official President. What the Government did was this. The election took place on the 20th of February. The Government nominee filed an objection before the Government of Bengal probably on the 1st of April. That objection was disposed of by the Government of Bengal by the 6th June, 1942, and it would be amusing to the House to know how they disposed of it. The sitting Vice-President, who was a candidate for the Presidentship, put forward four grounds. All the four grounds the Government rejected as having no substance. Government, however, allowed of their own motion the petition on another ground. Section 8 of the Act says "There shall be a President of the Board who shall until the expiration of two terms of four years mentioned in sub-section (*2*) of section 10 after the first establishment of the board be a member of the board appointed in that behalf by the Provincial Government and shall thereafter be a member of the board elected in that behalf by the board in the prescribed manner and approved by the Provincial Government." The District Magistrate issued a notice and in that notice he mentioned the election of a non-official President as the President of the District School Board. In section 8 it is clearly laid down who should be the President. Government contended that he cannot insert the word "non-official". But the Government must see whether by

the insertion of the word "non-official" the District Magistrate prejudiced the election. Under section 6 we find that the District Magistrate has ceased to be a member and that it is the intention of section 8 that a non-official member should be elected as President even though there is no express provision to that effect.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May I just remind you, Mr. Israil, that you are going into the details of the Bill? You must confine yourself to the points why you want the Bill to be circulated.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: I want to show to the House what motive the present Government has in bringing forward this Bill. Up to the 16th of September Government have not been able to fix a date for the election of the President and this clearly shows that they have a motive. This Bill has been introduced in this House They will rush it through not only in this House but also in the Council and then His Excellency will assent to it. After the Bill becomes an Act then they will fix a date for the election of the President so that they may have their own man This is their motive. That is why I want to mention this in the House. I wrote about these things in the papers and I asked the Government to consult the Legal Remembrancer on what had been done. In the meantime power has been delegated to the Vice-President who was the defeated candidate for the Presidentship and in this way they want to carry on and have the power in their own hands. Under section 18(*4*) when the office of the President is vacant, the Vice-President shall exercise the functions of the President until a new President is appointed. This does not fit in with the case of Mymensingh. It is clearly laid down that the Vice-President shall exercise the functions of the President until a new president is appointed. Here a new president has been elected. This section contemplates that when an official President is in charge of the board he is subject to transfer. When he is transferred another will come in. During the interim period the Vice-President will go on with the work of the board. When there has been an election of the President of the Board this section does not apply. In spite of that it has been done and the Vice-President, who is the nominee of the Government, has been allowed to carry on the administration of the school board in clear contravention of sub-section (*4*) of section 18. So my point is that the Government of Bengal are hastening this Bill to have their own man put in charge of the district school board.

My next point is about sub-section (*3*) of clause 3.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot allow you to discuss the whole Bill in this way. Your argument should be why you want the Bill to be circulated.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Sir, I have one more point to submit. They are now trying to increase the number of officials in the board. In the

Sadar subdivision there are two Subdivisional Officers. Previously when the Bill was passed in 1930 the Additional Sadar Subdivisional Officer was not a member. Now they are making the Sadar Additional Subdivisional Officer a member of the board thereby increasing the number of officials. The intention of the Government is to take away all the powers of the local bodies in their own hands so that they can dictate according to their own wishes and impose their will upon the local bodies also. For this reason, Sir, I think they have made the Additional Subdivisional Officer, Sadar, as member of the district school board.

Now, Sir, so far as the primary school teachers are concerned, I want to submit that in the previous Act, there was representation of only one primary school teacher and in this Bill also there is provision for the representation of only one primary school teacher——

(The member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

The motion of Mr. K. Shahabuddin that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st October, 1942, was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—46.

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza.
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Latif Biswas, Maulvi.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed (Noakhali).
Abdul Metaleb Malik, Dr.
Abdulla-al Mahmood, Mr.
Abdul Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.
Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr.
Abdur Rasehid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rasheed, Maulvi, Md.
Abdus Shaheed, Maulvi, Md.
Abidur Reza Chowdhury, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Abul Hashim, Maulvi.
Abul Hossain Ahmed, Mr.
Abul Masud, Maulvi Kazi.
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi
Ahmed Hossain, Mr.
Alhazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Aulad Hossain Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Farhad Raza Chowdhury, Mr. M.
Farhat Bano Khanam, Begum.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Faziur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Faziur Rahman, Mr. (Mymensingh).
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib.
Ispahani, Mr. M. A. H., M.B.E.
Jasimuddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Maulvi (Tippera).
Maguire, Mr. L. T.
Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed.
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Nazimuddin Khwaja Sir, K.C.I.E.
Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr.
Saheben Alam, Mr. Syed.
Salim, Mr. S. A.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S.
Tamizuddin Khan, Mr.
Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr.
Zahur Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi.

NOES—103.

Abdul Hakim, Maulvi (Mymensingh).
Abdul Hamid Shah, Maulvi.
Abdul Kader, Mr. (alias Lal Meah).
Abdul Majid, Maulvi (Mymensingh).
Abdul Wahab Khan, Mr.
Abdul Waheed, Maulvi.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Acharya Choudhury, Maharaja Sashi Kanta, of Muktagacha, Mymensingh.
Ahmed Ali Enayetpuri, Khan Bahadur Maulana.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md.
Anwarul Azim, Khan Bahadur Md.
Asimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Azhar Ali, Maulvi.
Badrudduja, Mr. Syed.
Banerjee, the Hon'ble Mr. Pramatha Nath.
Barat Ali, Mr. Md.
Barma, Babu Prembari.
Barma, Mr. Puspajit.
Barman, Babu Shyama Prasad.
Barman, the Hon'ble Mr. Upendra Nath.
Basu, the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Bhowmik, Dr. Gobindra Chandra.
Biswas, Babu Lakshmi Narayan.
Biswas, Mr. Rashik Lal.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.

Clark, Mr. L. A.
Das, Rai Sahib Anukul Chandra.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan.
Das, Mr. Manmohan.
Das Gupta, Srijut Narendra Nath.
Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira.
Edbar, Mr. Upendranath.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Fazlul Huq, the Hon'ble Mr. A. K.
Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Gomes, Mr. R. A.
Goswami, Mr. Tulsi Chandra.
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh.
Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Alhadj.
Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca.
Hasanuzzaman, Khan Sahib Maulvi Md.
Hashem Ali Khan, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Hosina Murshed, Mrs., M.B.E.
Hatemally Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Hendry, Mr. David.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kazem Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawan Jah Syed.
Kennedy, Mr. I. G.
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Lahiri, Babu Ashutosh.
Mcpherson, Mr. G. P.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Dr. (Begra).
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal.
Mandal, Mr. Banku Behari.
Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra.
Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad.
Manirozzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Meghul Hosain, Mr.
Mohsin Ali, Mr. Md.
Mookerjee, the Hon'ble Dr. Syamaprasad.
Morgan, Mr. G., C.I.E.
Mozammel Huq, Maulvi Md.
Muhammad Afzal, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Syed.
Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi.
Muhammad Sulaiman, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Musharruff Hossain, Nawab, Khan Bahadur.
Mustagawsal Haque, Mr. Syed.
Pain, Mr. Barada Prasanna.
Poddar, Mr. Anandilal.
Powell, Mr. J. A.
Pramanik, Mr. Tarinicharan.
Raikut, Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy.
Roy, Mr Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Safiruddin Ahmed, Haji.
Sanaullah, Dr.
Sen, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Sen, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Sen, Jogesh Chandra, Rai Bahadur.
Shahedali, Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, the Hon'ble Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Smyth-Osbourne, Mr. D. G.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Waliur Rahman, Maulvi.
Walker, Mr. J. R.
Yousuf Mirza.
Zaman, Mr. A. M. A.

The Ayes being 46 and the Noes 103, the motion was lost.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, I beg to move by way of amendment that the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education (Amendment) Bill, 1941, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

(1) The Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department,

(2) Mr. Fazlur Rahman——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Shahabuddin, it would be better if you take up the names later on. You may now move the first part of the motion for reference to Select Committee. As to its personnel, it may be taken up separately later on.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: All right, Sir.

I beg to move by way of amendment that the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education (Amendment) Bill, 1941, be referred to a Select Committee with instructions to submit their report by the 30th November, 1942, and that the quorum of the Select Committee be fixed at five.

Sir, in respect of this motion I submit that by referring this Bill to the Select Committee, an opportunity will be available to the members of the Select Committee to examine the Bill to introduce any change that they may

deem necessary. As I have said, Sir, I do not see any urgency of pushing through this Bill in such a great haste specially in view of the fact that the Bill is contemplating a very important change of principle. It is very seldom that a Bill of such importance, specially involving principles as this Bill does, has been hurried through the House without reference to the Select Committee. Therefore, Sir, I tabled this motion and I have moved it so that some members of the House may have some time to consider this Bill clause by clause with the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education and they may be able to amend the Bill in such a way as to remove all its objectionable features.

Sir, there is another point which I want to submit. Although the House has not accepted the motion for circulation, by referring this Bill to the Select Committee, the public will get another opportunity. This Bill will attract the attention of the public immediately if the Bill is referred to a Select Committee and therefore the public will get an opportunity to express their opinion. They will be forwarding their opinion through the press and expressing their opinion on the platform and the Select Committee might be able to take that opinion also into consideration.

Sir, as far as the Select Committee is concerned, I want to mention that one or two members were not present the other day when consent was being taken and I have not been able to take their consent—specially I understand that among them there were one or two members belonging to the Government party who were not present and therefore their consent could not be taken. I shall be only too glad if any amendment is suggested by Government in the Select Committee and I shall be glad to accept any suggestion in the personnel of the Select Committee if Government so wish.

Now, Sir, I do not think I need take the time of the House for very long. There can be no reason to hurry this Bill through unless Government have got some ulterior motive. That, I submit, would be evident—of course when the circulation motion was debated upon, the Hon'ble Education Minister did not take part in the debate and therefore we have not heard so far as to what is the urgency of this Bill and in what respect great harm will be done if the Bill is not enacted now and sufficient time is given to the country and to the members to consider the Bill more thoroughly. The absence of any reply from the Education Minister, the absence of any answer about that question from the Education Minister, his failure to take that opportunity when this question was discussed in the House to rebut the necessity for circulating the Bill and eliciting public opinion and the failure of the Hon'ble Minister to acquaint the House about the urgency of the Bill, convince me in my belief that there are ulterior motives in hurrying through this Bill. I therefore would strongly recommend my motion to the House for acceptance. I can assure the House that my motion is not with a view to create any obstruction in the passage of the Bill. I want that having regard to the importance of the measure and the principles involved, let the matter be thoroughly and fairly considered and that proper and full deliberation be given to the important clauses of the Bill.

Sir, with these words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Biswas, I will only impress upon you the necessity of confining yourself to the motion for referring the matter to the Select Committee.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: May I point out that as far as acceptance of the Select Committee is concerned, it means accepting the principle of the Bill and if the Chief Minister has offered a discussion, I do not see what should be discussed if the Select Committee motion is ruled out. Once the Select Committee is accepted, it means that the principles of the Bill are accepted and therefore I suggest that this motion should be postponed till after the discussion with the Chief Minister.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the Chief Minister may not agree to your proposal.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I did not want to speak for I knew that my words would fall on very unwilling ears. A few minutes ago I made a suggestion and Mr. Fazlur Rahman had nothing but invectives for me when he made a most irrelevant speech. Sir, after the exhibition my friends have given on ordinary courtesy I decline to show them any consideration.

Mr. ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Sir, I support the motion moved by my honourable friend Mr. Khwaja Shahabuddin. The motion is a very reasonable demand as this piece of legislation involves a serious principle which affects the rural primary education of the whole of Bengal.

Sir, the assurance given by the Hon'ble Chief Minister some time before as to giving facilities to the Opposition to have a talk regarding the matter amply justifies the acceptance of this motion. The Chief Minister has said that he can take up the Bill for consideration on the 23rd or 24th and in the meantime the Opposition may have a heart to heart talk with him as to the features of the Bill. If the Hon'ble Chief Minister has given an assurance that he would have a heart to heart talk with the Opposition so that the objectionable features of the Bill may be removed, I do not find any reason why the Chief Minister and his colleague the Hon'ble Mr. Abdul Karim will not accept this motion for reference to the Select Committee and have some more time to have mature consideration by the members of the Select Committee.,

Sir, my honourable friend Mr. Shahabuddin has already assured the House that he was moving this motion not with a view to obstructing the passing of the Bill but with a view that the Bill may be considered thoroughly and threatbare, and the mature consideration of the members might relieve some objectionable features of the Bill.

Sir, in the last motion it has been discussed that the Bill is going to officialise the Primary Education of Bengal. If the Select Committee gets an opportunity of sitting together and exchange their views, it may be that in some aspects the Bill may be modified and it may be acceptable to all sections of members of this House. Sir, nobody can deny the force of public opinion which is being shut out by the Government party, but if the motion for Select Committee is accepted, the Select Committee may have to consider the opinions of the public and may ascertain what the public thinks as to the nature of the Bill and in the light of public opinion they may modify the Bill clause by clause. Sir, if this motion is opposed by the Government, I can say that that would indicate the motive for the speedy passing of the Bill, namely, in order to have the Chief Minister's hold on the district school board. If the Hon'ble Chief Minister thinks that this Bill has been brought with a view to improve the primary education of Bengal, I do not find any reason why he should try to pass this Bill so hurriedly. If the Bill goes to the Select Committee, the Committee would be able to finish the work within as short a time as is possible and in that case the views of all the parties may be considered when the report of the Select Committee will be placed before the House.

Considering all these things I again submit, Sir, that the Hon'ble Education Minister who had not replied so far as the last motion was concerned should stand up and accept this motion. If he has got some other motive he may not accept it but if his aim is good, right and honest, I think that there will be no objection on his part to accept this motion.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Hon'ble the Chief Minister was pleased to say that he was not prepared to show any consideration to us, on this side of the House. He was, perhaps, thinking in a wishful manner. We have ceased to expect any consideration at his hands. The House was regaled by his acting the somersault this morning. To your knowledge, Sir, and to ours, he got up and showed, as my friend the honourable member for the University of Dacca suggested, a certain amount of lucidity. But when he sat down, his colleague to the left, must have taken him to task and we saw that just by a shake of the head and a nod, lucidity disappeared and the servility made the man in him jump up and, under the military orders of his colleague, he was made to say things which contradicted his former statement. Sir, we do not expect consideration, but we expect honesty. We expect clean administration; we expect decency to be extended to the majority of the population of this Province. The Hon'ble the Chief Minister and his colleagues may take shelter behind their majority in this House. I do not complain of that; they have a right to do so. But when putting forward arguments for what they are doing, they should realise that sometimes things are said in a manner which cannot be called dignified. After all in the whole history of mankind the significance and importance of what is known as Government and its utterances should not be lost sight of. I mean, sitting here I may utter things which will be called irresponsible statements, but if I were

to go there and say the same thing, my words will have the responsibility normally and usually attached to Government statements. (Uproar.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you supporting the motion of Mr. Shahabuddin?

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, I shall have to lose all sense of proportion and all sense of correct and reasonable speaking in this House if I am disturbed in this way. One has to develop an argument, one has to meet the arguments of these irresponsible gentlemen on the Treasury benches, step by step, to expose the serious mistakes, misdemeanours, and even high crimes they have committed and are committing today. (Hear, hear.) Sir, in order to meet their arguments I cannot blurt out what I want to say. They have refused the first amendment and they will refuse the second one also. I know what they want to do, but our great poet Iqbal has said, and I want the Chief Minister to understand its meaning fully,

تو ہی ناداں چند کلیوں پر قناعت کر گیا
ورنہ گلشن میں علاج تنگیٔ داماں بھی تھا

The Hon'ble the Chief Minister is trying to crush us under heels which are not his. Let him go ahead. If this Bill goes as it is, it will uproot the very foundations of the society which he and we were trying to build. If it is not submitted to a Select Committee, he will not have consulted Muslim opinion. The Hon'ble Minister for Education—he must forgive me for using the word—mumbled something in the House. We could not hear one word of what he said. Perhaps he means well, but so far as we, on this side of the House, are concerned, we have got to come to the decision that he does not mean well of us, because he and his colleagues do not use their own words and ideas. These are given to them by those who do not mean us well. Sir, the Muslim Ministers sitting over there will not allow the Muslims to express an opinion on this Primary Education Bill—primary education which is the very life of the people, primary education in which Dadabhai Naoroji, Gokhale and Surendra Nath Bannerjea and others took so much interest and for which we all have worked hard for decades. The Muslims of Bengal will be denied even an expression of opinion. The Hon'ble the Chief Minister was the Minister for Education in the previous Government. We know the history of Secondary Education Bill. We know why the Ministers today have shelved it. We know why they are trying to annoy and irritate us. Our annoyance and irritation will one day reach a stage when things will be uttered in a different manner. I do not wish to threaten but although small in numbers, although insignificant in this House according to their view, we challenge every one of them, Muslim and Hindu, to come and stand up before the bar of public opinion in Bengal——.

Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA: We accept the challenge of foreigners who are exploiters. They have no right to speak on behalf of the Mussalmans of Bengal as a whole.

(There were disturbances which lasted for some time.)

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: What were you doing for the last 4½ years?

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: I have been asked what I was doing for the last 4½ years. One sentence should be enough for my friends over there, and they should take a lesson from it. I tried to prop up the Hon'ble the Chief Minister to stand straight and keep him so. (Laughter.) I hope my experience and failure will be an example to them.

Sir, I have only one word more to say even at this "blue" hour that they should avoid playing with us any more than they have done. Let this Bill go through a Select Committee. Let us express our opinion. They will not be able to find money to put the scheme into operation. Money is going into channels which are otherwise more important. Primary education requires crores and crores of rupees. Let us stop for the time being and put this Bill with the Secondary Education Bill on the shelf for better times. When that time comes we shall take up the Primary Education Bill.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, ——.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry, there is no time.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: When I spoke to you, you gave me to understand that the Hon'ble Minister would reply to the debate and I told you also that our Deputy Leader, Mr. Suhrawardy, would like to speak and that he should be given an opportunity. You also agreed, but I am very sorry, Sir, that you are trying to stop the Opposition from giving expression to their opinion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have tried my level best to accommodate the Opposition. I am not allowing even the Government member to reply.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Why, Sir? We want to hear the Hon'ble Minister.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Have they got anything decent to say? We want to hear them if they have.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Are you the judge of decency?

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: In this case we are.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Decency is not your monopoly.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Government have agreed to take up this Bill on another day. After all, the question of voting and one or more speeches on that day will not take up much time of the House. If it is a question of going through the Bill today I can understand the hurry. This is a very important Bill on which members on this side of the House feel very strongly. It is most important that we should hear what the Government have to say. We have discussed this question for more than two hours and not a single word is being said in reply from the Government side. That I cannot understand. At least they may get up and say that they oppose it. Is it that they have not got anything to say?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Government will say what they have to say on the 3rd reading of the Bill. Sir Nazimuddin, have you anything more to say? If you want I will give you more time.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I want to say one thing only. I can understand your stopping us from speaking, but we cannot understand why you are stopping the Government from speaking. Sir, the Opposition is entitled to hear the Government view-point. We have discussed it for two hours.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right. You will hear what the Government have to say.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, ——. (Cries of sit down, sit down.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: If you don't allow Mr. Suhrawardy to speak then it will be our painful duty to walk out.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thought you wanted to hear the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: I told you when you called me that the Deputy Leader of our Party wanted to speak. Look at all precedents. Even at the last moment the previous Speaker, Sir Mohammed Azizul Haque did his best to accommodate either the Leader or the Deputy Leader of the Opposition whenever they wanted to speak. We are asking you to allow our Deputy Leader to speak. You won't allow him to speak.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I agree that your Deputy Leader should speak, but much time now is lost. If Mr. Suhrawardy wanted to speak on this particular motion I have no objection. But he should not take more than five minutes.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Government has created several precedents, one precedent being complete inactivity in the legislative and administrative fields for nine months other than careering about the country and receiving black flags. The other precedent is rushing such an important Bill as the present one through the House without referring it to a Select Committee. Never before has this been done in the history of legislation in this province. I cannot recall a single instance from 1920 onwards when an important Bill of this nature which changes absolutely the principle of election to that of nomination, which takes a body like that of the school board where there is a majority of elected members and changes it into a body where there will be a majority of nominated members has been rushed without referring it to a Select Committee. One, Sir, absolutely fails to understand why Government are adopting such a procedure, unless there is some motive behind it, and they are trying to rush this piece of legislation in order that the Chief Minister may have more opportunities for patronage and for jobbery, more opportunities for appointing people like Mr. Labibuddin Siddiqi, who has recently been nominated on the Dacca School Board. Apart from that, one is unable to understand this rush. Does, Sir, a section of the House which claims to be ignorant and impartial realise that a Bill of this type has not been placed before the public for their opinion? Do you think that the public in Bengal, however long suffering it may be, under the castigation of this particular Ministry will ever stand for a Bill of this nature? After all, after a great deal of effort, the non-officials have been able to get one non-official body and one body where they have a non-official majority, namely, the school board, and an attempt is now being made to transform into a Government body. Do the Chief Minister and his colleagues think that the public will stand for it? Sir, there will be such a flaming agitation throughout Bengal that if he has received 6,000 black flags before in Barisal, next time he may receive 60,000 black flags.

This thing is not going to be tolerated. I realise that the members opposite hope that far more opportunities for nomination and for appointments will go to them and their relatives or to their friends. That is the reason why they are supporting this Ministry and supporting this measure. That is not going to last for ever. Time will come when the voice of the public will declare itself. Again I appeal, if I may.—I do not find it easy —to that section of the House which designates itself ignorant and impartial, just to pay a certain amount of attention to the principles of this Bill and not to permit and support the Government in its attempt to rush such an important measure through this House. I have no doubt that after my speech the Government is going to make some reply and offer some explanation why it proposes to change the principles involved in the constitution

of a school board. Sir, we want to hear the Education Minister and not the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister, we know, has been making these nominations and he wants to rush this Bill through. So far as the principles of the Bill are concerned, we want to hear the Education Minister for whom we still entertain a certain degree of regard and respect. Sir, I may give an example of how the Chief Minister is tampering with school boards for his own purposes. There was an election in the Noakhali District School Board under the new scheme, and the Vice-Chairman of that School Board was elected the Chairman. He happened not to be a Muslim Leaguer and immediately his election was sanctioned by this Government. But in all those cases where a Muslim Leaguer has been elected, and where the Vice-Chairman is not a Muslim Leaguer, the approval has been kept pending by this Government. (Cries of "shame, shame" from the Opposition benches.) I say definitely to those who might wish to read and who might wish to understand that the ruling in reference to the Mymensingh District School Board was a dishonest ruling and it was a scandal of the first water. Sir, to what electorate can we appeal if this Ministry continue to act in this manner and give the go-by to all decent administration?

(As soon as the Hon'ble the Chief Minister rose to reply there were loud cries from the Muslim League Opposition benches—"We do not want to hear the Chief Minister, we want to hear the Education Minister.")

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sir Nazimuddin, I hope there will not be any disturbance from your party when the Hon'ble Chief Minister is going to speak.

Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: Sir, in this month of Ramzan we are not here to hear lies from the Chief Minister. We want to hear the Education Minister.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should not make that sort of remark. It is unparliamentary.

Mr. Syed BADRUDDUJA: Sir, we want the withdrawal of that expression.

Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: I am prepared to take any risk, but I am not going to withdraw, I repeat the expression once again.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Hashim, I am sorry, I will have to take action if you do not withdraw that expression. I hope you will reconsider your decision and withdraw your remark.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I would ask the honourable member to withdraw the expression he has used if you think that it was unparliamentary.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already said that it is unparliamentary.

Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: In response to the appeal of my leader I am constrained to withdraw the expression I have used.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, I will not enter into any controversy. I claim the right to speak on the Bill because the Bill was drafted by me when I was the Education Minister. My friend Mr. Suhrawardy also remembers the circumstances under which this Bill was originally framed. It is not for me to give out Cabinet secrets, but there are three members of that Cabinet present in this House who know that the principles of the Bill were discussed not merely amongst the Ministers themselves privately but were discussed in the Cabinet as well.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, in this month of Ramzan I say that we did not discuss the principles of the Bill in the Cabinet.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: It is a fact that the Bill was published in the *Calcutta Gazette* and this could not be done unless its principles were accepted by the Government. I repeat, Sir, that no Government Bill can be published in the *Calcutta Gazette* as Government Bill unless the principles of the Bill have been accepted by the Government. That is what ought to be known and I think it ought to be known to one who had been a Minister.

Now, Sir, at that time no one objected to a Bill of this kind. The objections that have been taken at the present moment should have been taken at the time when this Bill was published in the *Calcutta Gazette*. Nobody saw anything sinister behind the Bill at that time.

Now, Sir, as regards the one or two instances, Mr. Suhrawardy has referred to the election of Vice-President of the Mymensingh District School Board who happened to be a Muslim Leaguer. But the election was legally invalid and was therefore set aside on the advice of the Legal Remembrancer——. (Loud noise from the Muslim League Opposition Benches.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. When the Leader of the House is making a statement, he should be given a patient hearing.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, I am speaking from my memory. I think, in Dinajpur, Bogra and some other places Muslim Leaguers have been elected Chairmen of District School Boards and no objection has been taken to their election.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Yes, Sir, because they were Vice-Chairmen, and if you did not approve that they would still have carried on.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I know, Sir, whatever I say will be contradicted.

Now, Sir, as I said, there was no sinister motive behind this Bill nor do I want to get it rushed through this House. I drafted that Bill with an honesty of purpose and then it was published in the *Calcutta Gazette*. (Loud noise from the Muslim League Benches.) Sir, it has been remarked that there is no instance in which an important Bill like this has been rushed through this House. May I remind the House that the first Amendment to the Bengal Tenancy Act, the biggest Bill that was before the Assembly after the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy, a Bill of far-reaching consequences, was not referred to a Select Committee, but was brought for consideration on the floor of the House.

The motion of Mr. K. Shahabuddin that the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education (Amendment) Bill, 1941, be referred to a Select Committee with instructions to submit their report by the 30th November, 1942, and that the quorum of the Select Committee be fixed at five was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—48.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza.
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Latif Biswas, Maulvi.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed (Noakhali).
Abdul Motaleb Malik, Dr.
Abdulla-al Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.
Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr.
Abdur Raschid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rasheed, Maulvi Md.
Abdus Shaheed, Maulvi Md.
Abidur Reza Choudhury, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Abul Hashim, Maulvi.
Abul Hosain Ahmed Mr.
Abul Masud, Maulvi Kazi.
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hosain, Mr.
Alifazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Aulad Hossain Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Farhad Raza Choudhury, Mr. M.
Farhat Bano Khanam, Begum.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Mymensingh).
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib.
Ispahani, Mr. M. A. H., M.B.E.
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Maulvi (Tippera).
Mandal, Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed.
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Nausher Ali, Mr. Syed.
Nazimuddin Khwaja Sir, K.C.I.E.
Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr.
Sahebe Alam, Mr. Syed.
Salim Mr. S. A.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S.
Tamizuddin Khan, Mr.
Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr.
Zahur Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi.

NOES—100.

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mia.
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi (Mymensingh).
Abdul Hamid Shah, Maulvi.
Abdul Majid, Maulvi (Mymensingh).
Abdul Wahab Khan, Mr.
Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Acharyya Choudhury, Maharaja Sashi Kanta, of Muktagacha, Mymensingh.
Ahmed Ali Emryalpuri, Khan Bahadur Maulana.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md.
Anwarul Azim, Khan Bahadur Md.
Asimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Azhar Ali, Maulvi.
Badruddoja, Mr. Syed.
Banerjee, the Hon'ble Mr. Pramatha Nath.
Barat Ali, Mr. Md.
Barma, Babu Premhari.
Barma, Mr. Puspajit.
Barman, Babu Shyama Prosad.
Barman, the Hon'ble Mr. Upendra Nath.
Basu, the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Bhaumik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra.
Biswas, Babu Lakshmi Narayan.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.

Clark, Mr. I. A.
Das, Rai Sahib Anukul Chandra.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan.
Das, Mr. Monmohan.
Das Gupta, Srijut Narendra Nath.
Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira.
Edbar, Mr. Upendranath.
Fazlul Huq, the Hon'ble Mr. A. K.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh.
Gyasudin Ahmed Chowdhury, Alhadj.
Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca.
Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed.
Hasanuzzaman, Khan Sahib Maulvi Md.
Hashem Ali Khan, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Hasina Murshed, Mrs., M.B.E.
Hatemally Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Hendry, Mr. David.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kazem Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawan Jah Syed.
Kennedy, Mr. I. G.
Kumar, Mr Atul Chandra.
Kundu, Mr Nishitha Nath.
Lahiri, Babu Ashutosh.
Mepherson, Mr. G. P.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Dr. (Bogra).
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal.
Mandal, Mr. Banku Behari.
Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra.
Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad.
Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Maqbul Hosain, Mr.
Mohsin Ali, Mr. Md.
Mookerjee, the Hon'ble Dr. Syamaprasad.
Morgan, Mr. G., C.I.E.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi M.
Mozammel Huq, Maulvi Md.
Muhammad Afzal, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Syed.
Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi.
Muhammad Solaiman, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Musarruff Hossain, Nawab Khan Bahadur.
Mustagawsal Haque, Mr. Syed.
Nandy, Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar
Paul, Sir Hari Sanker.
Pramanik, Mr. Tarinichandra.
Powell, Mr. J. A.
Raikut, Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Safiruddin Ahmed, Haji.
Sanaullah, Dr.
Sen, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Sen, Jogesh Chandra, Rai Bahadur.
Shahedali, Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, the Hon'ble Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
Singha, Babu Kshetra Nath.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Smyth-Osbourne, Mr. D. G.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Thakur, Mr. Pramatha Ranjan.
Wallur Rahman, Maulvi.
Walker, Mr. J. R.
Yousuf Mirza.
Zaman, Mr. A. M. A.

The Ayes being 48 and the Noes 100, the motion was lost.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Before you adjourn the House——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not adjourning the House. Sir Nazimuddin, there is a small Bill, namely, the Workmen's Compensation (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1941. I want to take it up and finish it in two or three minutes.

(Cries of "No, no" from the Opposition Benches.)

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I do not think that in view of the fact that there is so much opposition and we have sat for more than three hours, you should take up this Bill today. You can take up this Bill on another official business day.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it appears to my party that the Opposition has been given utmost latitude in the matter of the first Bill and they should allow the second Bill to be debated today. There is no reason why the second Bill should not be taken up today. The Opposition has been allowed to debate the first Bill at great length.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: I want to submit a word to you, Sir. I think this is a reflection on you by the Whip of the European Group when he has said that you have allowed latitude to the Opposition. We know, Sir, it is for the House to decide whether it is a reflection——.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. Sir Nazimuddin, this is a small Bill and if you all agree, I can take this Bill up and finish it in two or three minutes. (Cries of "No, no" from the Opposition Benches.)

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: We do not yield.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, so far as this session is concerned, Government business is very little, and I do not see why these things should be rushed through. After all, this is not a long session. It is a practice that when the session has gone on for six or eight weeks, this kind of thing is done This time we are meeting after five months and I cannot understand why Government are so impatient.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is a Bill passed by the Council and if you all agree, I can finish it very soon as no discussion will be necessary.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: According to your assurance, Sir, the meeting should have ended at 11-30 a.m.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you don't agree, I won't take it up.

Adjournment.

It being 11-50 a.m., the House was adjourned till 8-45 a.m. on Friday, the 18th September, 1942, in the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 18th September, 1942, at 8-45 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (MR. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 172 members.

Mr. ABUL HOSAIN AHMED: Sir, there is no quorum.

(The Secretary then counted the number of members present and found that there was no quorum.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned for 15 minutes.

(At this stage, the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(*After adjournment.*)

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Training of Scheduled Castes in Dacca Division for appointment in Jute Regulation Department.

***21. Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing, year by year, for the years 1940 up to February, 1942,—

(*i*) the number of Scheduled Caste candidates that applied for training in the Jute Regulation Department in the Dacca Division as—

(1) clerks,

(2) camp recorders,

(3) copyists, and

(4) primary licensing assistants;

(*ii*) the number of them that were taken in; and

(*iii*) the number of them that have been appointed?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the service ratio rules were observed in making the appointments?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca): (*a*) The posts of inspectors, clerks, camp recorders or camp assistants, as they are now called, and primary licensing assistants, and copyists carry the same rate of pay. The only exception is the Chief Inspector's head clerk who gets Rs. 5 in excess.

A statement, showing the number of Scheduled Caste applicants and the number appointed in the Dacca Division during the periods mentioned, is laid on the Table.

(*b*) Yes.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (a) of starred question No. 21.

During the year.	Number of candidates.	Number trained.	Number appointed.
1940	168	160	142
1941	98	88	66
1942 (up to February) ..	32	32	31

Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the communal ratio has been observed in the selection of Scheduled Caste candidates?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I have already answered that.

Mr. ABUL HOSAIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why all the trained men were not appointed?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Because that would result in excessive communal ratio.

Stenographers in the High Court.

***22. Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state the present number of stenographers existing in the High Court including the stenographers of Registrars?

(*b*) How are they recruited?

(*c*) How many of them are Muslims?

(*d*) Whether future recruitment is likely to be made by means of competitive examinations as is done in the Bengal Secretariat?

MINISTER in charge of the JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee): By the courtesy of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice I am able to furnish the information as detailed below with regard to the two sides of the High Court, separately—

(*a*) *Appellate Side.*—There are no posts of stenographers, but persons who are appointed as Bench Clerks, Assistant Bench Clerks and General Assistants to the Deputy Registrar and First Assistant Registrar have to be proficient in shorthand and typewriting. Their total number is 19.

Original Side.—Eleven.

(*b*) *Appellate Side.*—Assistant Bench Clerks and General Assistants are recruited from amongst the members of the Court's staff who qualify at a test held by the Registrar in shorthand and typewriting. Bench Clerks are recruited from amongst Assistant Bench Clerks who qualify at a similar test.

Original Side.—They have to pass a prescribed test.

(*c*) *Appellate Side.*—There is one Muslim among the Assistant Bench Clerks and another Muslim acts as Assistant Bench Clerk from time to time in leave vacancies.

Original Side.—None.

(*d*) *Appellate Side.*—No change in the present system of recruitment is contemplated.

Original Side.—No change in the present system of recruitment is contemplated.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: In view of the fact that there is no Muslim stenographer in the Original Side, does the Government consider the desirability of reserving some posts for Muslims?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: The proceedings of the Legislature may be forwarded by me to the Hon'ble the Chief Justice. Connected with this question there was the difficulty about Muslim lawyers, litigants and the public with regard to the saying of their prayers on the *Jumma* day. You may have a recollection that I made a statement on the floor of this House at the last Budget Session that I would take up the matter with the Hon'ble High Court. I am glad to say that in that matter the Hon'ble High Court has agreed to grant the prayer. This is the letter which the Registrar has written to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, dated the 28th July, 1942:—

"Sir,—I am directed to refer to your letter No.—and its enclosures, regarding the suspension of business in this Court on Friday to enable the Muslim litigants, lawyers and officers of the Court to say their *Jumma* prayer in congregation. In doing so, I am directed to say that in future on Fridays the Court will rise for the midday adjournment at 1 p.m. and resume at 2 p.m."

The Hon'ble High Court is responsive to the legitimate views of the Legislature. I propose to take up this matter with the Hon'ble High Court. Beyond that, I cannot give any further assurance because the High Court, as the honourable member is aware, is wholly in a peculiar position in the constitution of the province.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the old time between 1 and 2 was equivalent to standard time between 12 and 1, and it was extremely dfficult for the Muslims to say their *Jumma* prayer within that period of time?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I shall certainly consider the matter in consultation with my honourable friend who is also one of the honourable and learned members of the legal profession like myself, but there is such a shifting of time in these days that it is sometimes difficult to forecast arrangements.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I may inform the Hon'ble Minister that owing to the going back to the Bengal time, that difficulty has been re-solved?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I am glad to know that.

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: With reference to answer (*d*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the objections to the introduction of a competitive examination in making recruitments for these posts?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: My honourable friend knows that this is a matter in which information is obtained through the courtesy of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice. That information I have not secured from the Hon'ble the Chief Justice.

District Relief Committee in Noakhali.

*23. **Mr. FARHAD REZA CHOWDHURY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether any District Relief Committee was formed in the district of Noakhali to give relief to the people who suffered on account of the cyclone and flood in May and June, 1941?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the total amount collected;

(*ii*) the number of meetings held;

(*iii*) the name of person in charge of the cash;

(*iv*) whether the account has been audited and passed by the Committee; and

(*v*) whether any clothes were distributed, and if so, whether any receipts were obtained for the same?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) Rs.4,604-7.

(*ii*) Two.

(*iii*) The Collector as President of the Relief Committee.

(*iv*) Not yet. The account will be audited when the work is closed. The receipt books issued to the members have been called for for purposes of audit.

(*v*) Yes. Proper accounts have been kept.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for this unusual delay of over a year in auditing the accounts?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I am afraid I have not got the information in front of me, but these answers or most of them are held-over answers. I shall make an enquiry into the matter.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how much of this amount has been given by Government towards the relief of the district?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I have not got the information. That is not the question.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Does the Relief Committee consist of officials and non-officials and, if so, how many non-officials?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: The answer is in the affirmative. I have got the official report of the Collector before me according to which he made efforts to set up a representative Committee consisting of members of different communities and parties irrespective of political consideration.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the amount spent by the Committee was sanctioned by the Committee itself or it was spent under the direction of the District Magistrate?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: That information is not before me.

Mr. MIRZA AZDUL HAFIZ: Is it a fact that all the non-officials have been taken from those who support the Progressive Coalition Party?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: No, that is not the report before me. In these matters, as the honourable member is aware, I have to rely upon information received from local officials.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the distribution of clothes was undertaken by non-official agencies or was done through recognised institutions and public bodies like union boards?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I believe the distribution was undertaken by official agency. On that point the report is rather vague, but that is the general impression left on my mind.

Agricultural loans to the distressed people of Hajiganj, Tippera.

***24. Maulvi JONAB ALI MAJUMDAR:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware—

(*i*) that acute economic distress still prevails within the Hajiganj police-station in the district of Tippera;

(*ii*) that the last *aman* paddy crop in several unions within the Hajiganj police-station has been seriously damaged by a kind of disease called *upra* just before the harvest time; and

(*iii*) that the distressed cultivators of No. 2 Kalocho Union within the Hajiganj police-station have submitted a petition to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department praying for agricultural loans and gratuitous relief on the 25th February, 1942?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government are considering the desirability of sanctioning agricultural loans to the people of the said area immediately?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: (*a*) (*i*) Distress was reported in some villages of this police-station.

(*ii*) Yes, the crop was damaged to some extent in some villages in that police-station.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*b*) A sum of Rs.73,478 was distributed as agricultural loan and a further sum of Rs.2,000 is under distribution.

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: With reference to answer (*a*) (*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he contemplates to take any steps so that this disease *upra* may not spoil or damage the paddy in future?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: My honourable friend's question refers to action. I shall consider the desirability of taking the step which he wishes the Government to take.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে জানাবেন কি যে, এই যে সমস্ত দান খয়রাতের ব্যবস্থা করছেন, এগুলি কাদের হাতে ছিল? কাদের উপর এই দান খয়রাৎগুলি করবার ভার অর্পণ করা হয়েছিল?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE : মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের হাতে থাকলে ভাল হ'তো।

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY : তাই জন্যেই আমি জিজ্ঞাসা কর্‌ছি। মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের হাতে যে নেই, তা আমি জানি।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister should speak in English.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Sir, I thought that I knew Bengali quite as well.

The question of distribution is governed by certain specified rules and sometimes distribution is made through the agency of local authorities. But sometimes difficulties arise, and when difficulties arise they are met by the official staff.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY : মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় দেখবেন কি যে, যাতে যে সমস্ত অঞ্চলে দুর্ভিক্ষ দেখা দিয়েছে বা যেখানে এই রকম দান খয়রাতের ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে, সেখানকার M.L.A.দের অন্ততঃ সেই কমিটি বা এই দান করবার যে সমস্ত প্রতিষ্ঠান গঠিত হয়েছে, তাতে, সেই M.L.A.দের—যাতে কোন রকম কথা থাকে বা তাদের নেওয়া হয়—এই রকম ব্যবস্থা করা যেতে পারে।

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: My honourable friend has referred to two questions. One is the question of inclusion of local M.L.A.'s With regard to that point I certainly agree that local M.L.A.'s should have a seat on the local Committee. The second question is the question of "কথা রাখা হয়" that is, the question of listening to what they say. They certainly should have a voice, but the voice need not necessarily be the final voice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether apart from the first part of his answer that the local M.L.A.'s should have a voice, Government should consider the desirability of issuing circulars asking the local authorities to consult the local M.L.A.'s?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Such circulars have been issued. But if there is any pious wish, that pious wish is sometimes offset by holy grief.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain the last part of his answer?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I have nothing further to add.

Leasing of water channels in Serampore subdivision, district Hooghly.

*25. **Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware—

(i) that the Aga Khal (a Khasmahal Khal in the Dankuni Beel) and other water channels in the Serampore subdivision in the Hooghly district have been leased out for fishery; and

(ii) that the lessees have placed fishing bars across the channels causing obstruction to the free flow of water?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, what steps do the Government propose to take for free flow of water and making the channels free from being silted up?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: (a) (i) Yes.

(ii) and (b) The bars which the lessees placed across some of the channels in contravention of the conditions of the lease have since been removed.

Alleged misbehaviour of the Medical Officer, Khulna Woodburn Hospital.

*26. **Mr. ABDUL HAKEEM:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state how long has Dr. N. C. Chakravarty been posted at Khulna as Medical Officer, Khulna Woodburn Hospital?

(b) If it is a fact—

(i) that a representation was made against his behaviour with the patients and the public; and

(ii) that the Surgeon-General with the Government of Bengal instituted an enquiry into them?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table a copy of—

(i) the said representation; and

(ii) the findings of the enquiry?

(d) If it is a fact that, subsequent to the enquiry, the Surgeon-General ordered transfer of the said Medical Officer from Khulna?

(e) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the said transfer order has been given effect to?

(f) If not, what is the reason?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu): (a) From the 19th December, 1935.

(b) Yes.

(c) (i) A copy of the representation is laid on the Library Table.

(ii) The enquiry showed that the allegations were groundless.

(*d*) to (*f*) The transfer of the Medical Officer is overdue and the Surgeon-General with the Government of Bengal ordered his transfer, but it was subsequently stayed on account of the illness of the Sub-Assistant Surgeon's son who died later on.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who enquired into the allegations?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I presume the Civil Surgeon.

Girls' Madrasahs.

*27. **Maulvi IDRIS AHMED MIA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing—

(*i*) the names of the recognised—

(1) Girls' High Madrasahs, and

(2) Girls' Junior Madrasahs

at present existing in each district;

(*ii*) the amount of—

(1) capital grant,

(2) furniture grant, and

(3) monthly grant-in-aid

given to each institution, year by year, from March, 1937, up to date (for which figures are available);

(*iii*) the total number of girls that passed—

(1) the High Madrasah, and

(2) Junior Madrasah

Examinations year by year from 1937 up to 1940; and

(*iv*) the total number of girls that were sent up for Junior Madrasah Examination in 1941?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. Abdul Karim): (*i*) and (*ii*) Two statements furnishing the information are laid on the Library Table.

(*iii*) (1) Nil.

(2)	1937	63
	1938	66
	1939	96
	1940	137

(*iv*) 142.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of the girls out of the 142 that were sent up for Junior *Madrasah Examination passed in 1941?*

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I ask for notice.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: With reference to the statements laid on the Library Table, if the Hon'ble Minister will kindly refer to the number of existing girls' junior madrasahs, it will be seen that six are shown in the list, while as a matter of fact, there are other girls' junior madrasahs existing. I may mention the Jolagati Girls' Junior Madrasah and another girls' junior madrasah at Chowaripara. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enquire whether the statement placed on the Library Table is correct or not?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Yes, I will.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of providing adequate grants for these girls' junior madrasahs not mentioned in the list and which have not yet got any grants from the Government?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I will.

Exactions of the Ijardar of Midnapore Sadar Ghat and Pichaboni ferry.

*28. **Mr. DEBENDRA LALL KHAN:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware—

(*i*) that the Ijardar of (1) Midnapore Sadar Ghat ferry, and (2) Pichaboni ferry in the district of Midnapore is exacting excess fare from the passengers;

(*ii*) that under the terms of the agreement the Ijardar is required to maintain sheds and keep lights at night on both sides of the ferries; and

(*iii*) that he has made no arrangement for such sheds and lights?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, he proposes to take in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed): (*a*) (*i*) I am informed that complaints were made against both the Ijardars to this effect but none could be proved.

(*ii*) I understand that the Ijardars of both the ferries are, under the terms of the agreement, bound to maintain a shed on one or both sides as may be required.

The Ijardar of the Pichaboni ferry is bound by the agreement to provide light on both sides, but the Ijardar of the Midnapore ferry is not so bound by the agreement.

(*iii*) My information is that the Ijardar of the Midnapore Sadar Ghat ferry maintains a shed on either side, while the Ijardar of the Pichaboni ferry maintains a shed on one side only according to the practice in vogue for the last 30 years.

The Midnapore ferry plies only from sunrise to sunset but in case it plies after sunset, the boat has to carry light. The Pichaboni ferry is under the control of the Midnapore District Board who have since provided lights at both ends of the ferry.

(*b*) No action appears necessary in view of the reply to clause (*iii*) above.

Expenditure for the counsels appointed in Dacca Riots Enquiry Committee.

*29. **Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the names of the counsels appointed to represent Government before the Dacca Communal Riots Enquiry Committee;

(*b*) the number of sittings before which the counsel appeared;

(*c*) the period during which the Enquiry was held; and

(*d*) the amount paid to each of the counsels by way of—

(1) fees,

(2) daily allowance, and

(3) travelling allowance,

(to be stated separately for each of the counsels) up to date?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) and (*d*) The honourable member is referred to (*i*) and (*ii*) of the reply given to unstarred question No. 86, dated the 25th March, 1942, by Mr. Sahabe Alum during the budget session of the Assembly, 1942. The amounts shown as travelling allowance for Messrs. J. N. Mazumdar and S. M. Murshed include Rs. 666 as daily allowance drawn by each.

(*b*) Total number of sittings of the Committee—122.

I have no information if each counsel attended all the sittings.

(*c*) The enquiry was held from the 2nd June, 1941, to the 17th January, 1942.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether this counsel, Mr. S. M. Murshed, is his nephew?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: That is an official secret!

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AULAD HOSSAIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the report of the Dacca Riots Enquiry Committee has been circulated amongst the members of the Legislature?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I do not think that this has been circulated.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AULAD HOSSAIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is ready to circulate it amongst the members of the Legislature, as is ordinarily done in every case?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The report covers a very wide field, and the recommendations, major or minor, amount to over 50. All these recommendations are being considered in respective departments, and after they have been collectively considered in the Cabinet the report will be circulated.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has referred to unstarred question No. 86, dated 25th March, 1942, in which the expenditure put down was not the final amount paid to the counsel. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any other amounts were paid after the statement made in connection with unstarred question No. 86?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I cannot obviously answer that question offhand. If I am given notice, I will find it out.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: In view of the fact that in the answer referred to here he could not give the total amount for each counsel, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why he did not take care to give the total expenditure?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I will give the information if it is required.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when were the appointments of counsel, advocates and pleaders as referred to in question (*a*) made and by whom?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: It was some time before the 2nd June, 1941.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the approximate date by which the various recommendations of the Committee are likely to receive consideration of the Cabinet?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: That depends on various circumstances. If things remain normal, disturbances do not increase, and we are allowed to function properly, I do not think it will take more than two months.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of years' practice put in by Mr. Mazumdar and Mr. Murshed?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I cannot give the information offhand. Mr. Mazumdar is a counsel of at least more than 20 years' standing and he is Standing Counsel of Government at the present moment. As regards Mr. Murshed he, I think, has put in more than three years' practice, but he is already in the top rank of the profession.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the daily fee drawn by Mr. Murshed and what was the total amount taken by Mr. Murshed as daily fee?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has said that he will give that answer.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for the payment of the same amount of Rs. 666 as fees both to a counsel of 20 years' standing and to a counsel of three years' standing?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The amount of fees which counsel receives does not depend on the number of years' practice. It depends on the personal qualities of the counsel.

Expenditure for the Dacca Riots Enquiry Committee.

***30. Mr. A. M. A. HAMID:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether there is any provision in the budget for the years 1941-42 and 1942-43 for the Dacca Riot Enquiry Committee?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the amount paid as allowances to the members of the Tribunal;

(*ii*) the name and the amount paid as fees to each—

(1) Counsels,

(2) Advocates, and

(3) Pleaders

engaged in the said Committee; and

(*iii*) the amount of other incidental charges, if any?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) A provision of Rs.1,56,500 has been made in the revised estimate for 1941-42. No provision has been made in the budget for 1942-43.

(*b*)(*ii*) The honourable member is referred to the answer given to (*i*) and (*ii*) of unstarred question No. 86, dated the 25th March, 1942, by Mr. Sahabe Alum during the budget session, 1942.

(*b*) (*i*) and (*iii*) The total expenditure up to the end of February, 1942, is:—

Allowances—Rs.6,650-14.

Incidental charges, i.e., Pay of establishments, their allowances and Contingencies—Rs.12,058-7-3.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is because Mr. Murshed is his nephew that he was engaged as a lawyer and given fat fees?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The appointment was made by the previous Government which was controlled by the honourable members opposite.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The Hon'ble Minister has said that the payment of fees was made on account of personal qualifications. Will he be pleased to state if personal qualifications include personal relationship?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: No; it does not. May I make one point clear? It is no use pursuing this point. You all know that Mr. Murshed is one of the most brilliant advocates of the High Court. (Laughter.)

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is not a fact that the party then in power supporting Government passed a resolution demanding the discharge of the two advocates and urged upon Government to have the case conducted by the Public Prosecutor and the Government Pleader of Dacca?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: It is a fact that the matter was decided by Sir Nazimuddin.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that Mr. Murshed's work was very much appreciated by the members of the Committee?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Yes, that is a fact.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whose nephew Maulvi Abdul Latif Biswas was, appointed in Sujata Roy's case?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Defalcations in Co-operative Societies in Chittagong.

13. Maulvi MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department be pleased to state the names of the Co-operative Societies in the district of Chittagong where defalcations were detected in course of last seven years?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many criminal cases were started in this connection, and with what result?

MINISTER in charge of the CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT and RURAL INDEBTEDNESS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hashem Ali Khan): (*a*) A statement is laid on the Table.

(*b*) Six. Four failed, one settled amicably and one is pending.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (a) of unstarred question No. 13.

(1) Cox's Bazar Urban Co-operative Bank Limited.
(2) Cox's Bazar Union Urban Bank Limited.
(3) Noapara-Guzra Urban Co-operative Bank Limited.
(4) Dabua Co-operative Bank Limited.
(5) Zorawarganj Urban Co-operative Bank Limited.
(6) Dharala-Kanungoepara Urban Co-operative Bank.
(7) Purba Sakpura Joutha Bank.
(8) Anwara Joutha Bank.
(9) Azimpur Banskhali Joutha Bank.
(10) Mohamuni Co-operative Bank Limited.
(11) Patiya Urban Co-operative Bank Limited.
(12) Chittagong Baidya Brahmin Co-operative Bank Limited.

Stipends to Scheduled Caste students.

14. Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the amount allotted for stipends to the Scheduled Caste students in 1941-42;

(*ii*) the amount paid to each division of the Province for the purpose;

(*iii*) the amount paid to each college of the Rajshahi Division; and

(*iv*) the amount that was paid to the 1st year student (Arts and Science) of the Rajshahi Division?

(b) Is it a fact that students passing the Matric Examination in the 3rd Division are not eligible for the stipend?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of relaxing the rule, if any?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (It is presumed that the member refers to college stipends.)

(a) (i) In 1941-42 an amount of Rs.18,000 has been allotted for college stipends.

(ii) College stipends are given on the basis of eligibility of students and not on a divisional basis.

(iii) (1) Rangpur Carmichael College, Rs.888.

(2) Bogra A. H. College, Rs.312.

(3) Pabna College, Rs.168.

(4) Cooch Behar College, Rs.96.

(5) Rajshahi College, Rs.336.

(iv) Rs.288.

(b) Yes.

(c) Rule 93 (v) of the Scholarships and Stipends Rules has already been relaxed in case of Scheduled Caste pupils.

Rai Sahib ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: With reference to answer (a) (I), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the sum of Rs. 18,000 was adequate for college stipends to the Scheduled Caste students?

(The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. Abdul Karim began to read out the printed answer to unstarred question No. 14.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You need not read out the answer, as it is an unstarred question. Please reply to Rai Sahib Anukul Chandra Das's question.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: What is his question?

Rai Sahib ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: My question is that the sum of Rs. 18,000 was inadequate for college stipends to the Scheduled Caste students.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Rs. 18,000 was not considered inadequate.

Babu KSHETRA NATH SINCHA: With reference to answer (a) (ii), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government would look to the backwardness of the Depressed Classes and allow stipends to the students on a divisional basis?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a request for action and not a question.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether, in view of the extreme poverty of the Scheduled Caste people of this Province, Government is considering the desirability of relaxing the rule further, so that Scheduled Caste students passing in the third division may get scholarships and stipends in colleges?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: That question has been substantially answered in (*c*), *viz.*, "Rule 93(*v*) of the Scholarships and Stipends Rules has already been relaxed in the case of Scheduled Caste pupils".

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: On a point of order, Sir. I do not think that there is anything in the rules which prevents an Hon'ble Minister from reading out the answer to an unstarred question. If there is an Hon'ble Minister who does not know the difference between a starred and an unstared question, can we suddenly stop him at the request of his colleagues?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

Admission of students in Rangpur Normal School.

15. Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of students admitted into the Rangpur Normal School in 1939, 1940 and 1941;

(*b*) the number of them that are—

(*i*) Muslims,

(*ii*) Caste Hindus, and

(*iii*) Scheduled Castes; and

(*c*) whether the ratio for each community was observed at the time of admission?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) and (*b*) A statement is laid on the Table.

(*c*) Yes.

Statement referred to in reply to clauses (a) and (b) of unstarred question No. 15.

Year.	Muslims.	Hindus.	Scheduled Castes.	Total.
1939	15	14	2	31
1940	8	10	3	21
1941	15	11	3	29

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: With reference to answer (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the ratio for each community that is observed is on the basis of the district population?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Yes.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Is this ratio observed in all the districts of West Bengal also? Can he guarantee that?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I ask for notice.

Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government is aware that the Hindu ratio in the district of Rangpur is more than 80 per cent. and will the Government in future observe this ratio in the selection of Hindu candidates?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I am not aware of that. If that is so, I shall look into the question.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what ratio was observed in the case of admission of students from different classes in that district?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I ask for notice.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Sir, from the figures supplied, it is very difficult to find the ratio due to each community.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister has already asked for notice.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the policy of communal ratio is based on the whole province or district by district?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: On the province as a whole.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Therefore am I right in understanding that when questions are asked with regard to particular districts they have no meaning?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: It is only observed on the provincial basis. This much I can tell you at present.

Debt Settlement Boards in Dacca.

16. Mr. DHANANJOY ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number of Debt Settlement Boards in Dacca district;

(*b*) the number of them that are represented by Scheduled Caste members; and

(*c*) what steps the Government propose to take for including members of the Scheduled Castes in those Boards where the members of Scheduled Castes do not exist?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: (*a*) 211 including 24 Special Boards.

(*b*) 65.

(*c*) Whenever vacancy occurs due consideration is given for increasing the number of Scheduled Caste members.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons why more than 65 boards were not represented by Scheduled Caste members?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: It is the local officials, Subdivisional Officers and Circle Officers, who suggest the names and where suitable members from the Scheduled Castes are available, we accept them.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: In answer to (*c*) it has been stated that Government will consider the question of increasing the number of Scheduled Caste members, when vacancies occur. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether by this the number of Scheduled Caste members will increase or not?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: Certainly it will increase.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many have already been increased from the time the answer was given?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: It is only at the time of reconstitution of Boards new members can be substituted or when a member resigns or dies a substitute can be taken in. Unless and until Boards are reconstituted, Government do not get the opportunity to add to the Scheduled Caste members.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: Is it or is not a fact that Government has not issued any mandatory instructions as yet to the officers responsible for these nominations to nominate more Scheduled Caste members?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: Oh, yes. Government not only now but for a long time past from the time of my predecessor, Mr. Mukunda Behari Mullick, have been insisting on more nominations being made from the Scheduled Caste members.

Refusal of permission to hold a cultural conference to Aid to Soviet Society at Rangpur.

17. Kazi EMDADUL HAQUE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the District Magistrate of Rangpur has refused permission to the Secretary, Aid to Soviet Society, to hold a cultural conference at Rangpur?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The permission was refused because the organisers could not give a satisfactory guarantee that the cultural conference would not be used for making harmful communist propaganda.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what he considers to be a harmful communist propaganda as distinct from helpful communist propaganda?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: It is very difficult to say. The matter must be left to the discretion of district authorities.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what he means by "harmful"?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I cannot give the honourable member more than the dictionary definition.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware of the activities of the organisation concerned in the district of Rangpur?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: No, I am not.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the organisation in question was carrying on propaganda to conduct the war effort in favour of Government but by the conduct of local officials that propaganda has been practically stopped?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I cannot say either way. The district authorities must know if the statement of the honourable member is a fact.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Is the Hon'ble Minister prepared to take the responsibility for the conduct of district authorities in this connection or will he plead ignorance and just pass it on to the shoulders of district authorities?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am prepared to take the responsibility for the action taken by district officers.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: In ignorance?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: No, Sir, but in these matters of detail about granting or refusing permission, we must depend on local authorities as my friend knows from personal experience.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: That is so. The words "harmful communist propaganda" ought to be explained by the Hon'ble Minister on the floor of this House when the question has been asked. He must acquaint himself with facts which led the District Magistrate to refuse permission.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The suggestion has been made that I should look into this matter and I have agreed.

Country spirit shop vendors.

18. **Mr. JAGAT CHANDRA MANDAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Excise and Forest Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the present number of—

(1) excise shops, and

(2) country liquor shops held by the—

Muslims,

Caste Hindus, and

Scheduled Castes; and

(*ii*) whether the communal ratio rule is observed in granting licences for such shops?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

MINISTER in charge of the FOREST and EXCISE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Upendra Nath Barman): (*a*) (*i*) A statement is laid on the Table.

(*ii*) and (*b*) A fair representation of all communities has always been in view. Orders have lately issued that in districts where the representation of any community is disproportionately small, special consideration should be given to its claims in accordance with the Communal Ratio Rules for services.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (a) (i) of unstarred question No. 18.

	Country spirit shops.	Drug shops.
Muslims	86	273
Caste Hindus	447	819
Scheduled Castes	255	184

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the basis for the distribution of excise shops?

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: I cannot say what was the principle that was followed during the long past. During the present Ministry, we have been observing the Communal Ratio Rules.

Maulvi MD. ISRAIL: What was the principle that was followed?

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: I cannot answer that question. I cannot be held responsible for what Government did in the past.

Maulvi MD. ISRAIL: In answer to (*a*) (*ii*) and (*b*) it is stated that a fair representation of all communities has always been in view. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Hindus and Muslims have got shops according to the Communal Ratio Rules in all the districts of Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: They have not got up till now. But we have accepted the principle and have asked the officers to observe the Communal Ratio Rules when future vacancies occur. That is all I can say at present.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in the distribution of excise shops the communal ratio rules for services or ratio of some other kind are observed?

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: The ratio rules for services are observed.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in view of the apparent disproportionate position of the various communities in the matter of excise shops the distribution was based on favouritism and jobbery or on the efficiency of the applicants?

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: *I cannot say what was done in the past.*

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of reserving the future vacancies for particular communities with a view to their reaching the requisite communal proportion?

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: I think I cannot do that, because the number of vacancies that occur in a district in a year are very small and if they are reserved for particular communities absolutely, there may be departmental difficulties. But so far, in my orders I have said that where the representation of any community is disproportionately small that community will get preference.

SJ. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Is it not a fact that the Muhammadans generally are not enthusiasts for having licences of country-spirit shops?

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: That, I understand, was the reason why there has been a paucity of Muslims in this line.

Point of Privilege.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: On a point of privilege, Sir, and I claim the privilege of an ordinary member of the House. Although the last session of the Assembly went over quite a long period, hundreds of questions are remaining outstanding. These are being answered in driblets, but I believe not a single question of this session has yet been answered. This session is not likely to last for any length of time and I do ask you to take steps to see that not only old questions but new questions as well are answered before the session expires. You were pleased to observe, Sir, that you had authority over the Ministers to compel them to answer questions. I cannot but, with great respect to the Chair, Sir, differ from such ruling. I think you have considerable authority; otherwise, the House is without protection, for it would really come to this that if the Hon'ble Ministers continue to preserve their majority in this House they can afford absolutely to ignore all wishes of the honourable members and may even refuse to answer a single question.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The whole position is this. As regards old questions I believe we have dealt with some of them and possibly we will give more replies tomorrow. With regard to new questions I may inform the House that we are pressing the Government to give their replies and as soon as these will come they will be replied to. Replies given so far relate to old questions. We are disposing of ten starred questions and six unstarred questions every day, and I have given full one hour for questions

every day and today it has exceeded one hour. I shall try my best to persuade Government to send in as many replies as possible without the least delay.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: I should like to know the fate of my short-notice question. It concerns honourable members of this House, particularly the Chief Whip and the General Secretary of Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose's group, who have been arrested. That is a very important question. May I expect an answer shortly?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We sent your question to the Department concerned and we are expecting a reply. More than that I cannot say.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: As regards the point raised by my friend, Mr. Suhrawardy, I would assure him that we fully realise the importance of the satement made by him. We are making earnest attempts to furnish the answers required, but I think the ordinary rule is that these questions must be held over till the old questions are answered. But I may tell the House that we have no objection to the questions being taken out of turn. If in any matter the Opposition have any grievance we shall be grateful if that matter is brought to the notice of the Chief Whip when we shall certainly give our attention to them.

As regards the specific question raised by Mr. Shahabuddin regarding the arrest of two Congress members under the Defence of India Rules, I want to tell the House that these questions raise certain issues which cannot be made clear or placed before the House unless certain circumstances intervene. There are many matters which under the present emergency cannot be made known to the public, but as regards the question itself we can certainly give the information that is wanted. If my friend insists I will see that answers are given but before I do so I shall have to obtain the information from the department; and unless there is anything objectionable in making the disclosure, the information will be given.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: I may tell the Hon'ble the Chief Minister that I do insist on having a reply.

Non-official Members' Resolutions.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Das Gupta, I have admitted your resolution but it requires, I think, slight amendment. You may add the words "of foodstuff and other essential commodities" after the words "control over prices".

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: I agree to your amendment, Sir.

Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that control over prices of foodstuffs, piecegoods and other essential commodities be exercised forthwith in consultation with the representatives of trades, production and consumers; and facilities of public co-operation in this matter be made more effective and easier in urban as well in rural areas and the system of issuing permits to traders, dealers and other agencies be at once discontinued all over the province, so that there may be free flow of trade and commerce with consequent greater availibility of articles by consumers.

SJ. NARENDRA NATH DASGUPTA: Mr. Deputy Speaker মহোদয়, আমি এই যে প্রস্তাবটি বর্ত্তমান পরিষদের সম্মুখে উপস্থিত করছি, এ সম্পর্কে বাংলার প্রত্যেক নরনারী বিশেষভাবেই আজ উদ্বিগ্ন হয়ে আছে। যখন যুদ্ধ বাঁধে ১৯৩৯ খৃঃ এবং ১৯৪১ খৃঃ এর শেষ ভাগ পর্য্যন্ত Europeএ যুদ্ধের তাণ্ডবলীলা চলতে থাকে, তখন পর্য্যন্ত ভারতেবর্ষে, আমি বিশেষতঃ বাংলা দেশের কথা বলছি, সেখানে এই মূল্য-নিয়ন্ত্রণ বা জিনিষের দাম যে চড়ে যাচ্ছে, উঠছে নামছে, এই নিয়ে জনসাধারণের মধ্যে এমন একটা ঔৎসুক্য বা আতঙ্কের সৃষ্টি হয়নি। কিন্তু যেদিন জাপান যুদ্ধ ঘোষণা করলে আমেরিকা এবং ইংরাজের বিরুদ্ধে, হঠাৎ দেখা গেল যে বাংলার বাজারে, বিশেষতঃ প্রথমতঃ বাংলার কেন্দ্রস্থল কলিকাতার বাজারে সমস্ত জিনিষের দাম, হু হু করে বেড়ে চললো। দু বছর যুদ্ধ চলেছিল, সেই দু বছর জাপানও যুদ্ধে রত ছিল চীনের সঙ্গে। কিন্তু তখন পর্য্যন্ত এই প্রকার জিনিষের দামের হ্রাস বৃদ্ধি সম্পর্কে যে একটা সহজ গতি বিদ্যমান ছিল, সেটা হঠাৎ জাপান ইংরাজ এবং আমেরিকার বিরুদ্ধে যুদ্ধ ঘোষণার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে ওলোট পালট হয়ে গেল। চারিদিক থেকে ব্যবসায়ীর দল এসে জিনিষের দাম অসম্ভব রকম বাড়িয়ে তুললো। এই যে একটা অপ্রত্যাশিত ঘটনা হয়ে গেল, এটা যে যুদ্ধের দরুণ হয়েছে এ কথা ঠিক বলা চলে না, কারণ যুদ্ধ ইতিপূর্ব্বে চল্‌ছিল। এটা হয়েছিল জাপান আক্রমণ করেছে, ভবিষ্যতে হয়ত এই যুদ্ধ বাংলার কাছে এসে যাবে, এবং বাংলা এবং ভারতবর্ষের ভাগ্য এই যুদ্ধে আরো ঘনিষ্ঠতম-ভাবে, নিবিড়তমভাবে জড়িত হয়ে পড়বে সেই আশঙ্কাকে অবলম্বন করে ব্যবসায়ীদল লোকের মনের মধ্যে এই আশঙ্কার সুযোগ নিয়ে জিনিষের দাম বাড়িয়ে ফেললে। ঠিক যে সময় কলকাতা সহর থেকে হাজার হাজার লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক সেই জাপানী বোমার ভয়ে ছুটে চলেছে, এবং তার জন্য দেশে যে সময় জিনিষের দাম সস্তা হওয়া উচিৎ ঠিক সেই সময় দেখা গেল উল্টো ব্যাপার হলো যে জিনিষের দাম কলকাতায়ই বেড়ে চল্‌লো। কাযেই এটা সকলের কাছে অতিশয় স্পষ্ট হয়ে উঠলো যে এই জিনিষের দাম বাড়বার পেছনে মানুষের মূল চাহিদা এবং দ্রব্যসম্ভারকে যোগান দেওয়ার যে নীতি, সেটা কার্য্যকরী হচ্ছে না। এখানে একটা ব্যবসাদারী লাভ করার অভিসন্ধি বিশেষভাবে কার্য্যকরী হয়ে এই দামটাকে বাড়িয়ে ফেলেছে। তাই জনসাধারণের মধ্য দিয়ে, খবরের কাগজের মধ্য দিয়ে, চারিদিকে আন্দোলন আরম্ভ হয়ে গেল যে এই দাম-টাকে বেঁধে দেওয়া হোক, যেন ব্যবসায়ীরা অতিরিক্ত লাভ করে লোককে বিপন্ন করতে না পারে। এবং সেই চারিদিকের আন্দোলনের ফলে বাংলা Government শুধু কলকাতা এবং তার উপকণ্ঠের জন্য একটা মূল্য-নিয়ন্ত্রণের ব্যবস্থা করে দিলে। কিন্তু এই যে কলকাতা এবং উপকণ্ঠের জন্য মূল্য-নিয়ন্ত্রণের ব্যবস্থা করে দিলে—সঙ্গে সঙ্গে দেখা গেল যে বাংলা Governmentএর কোন প্রকার বিবৃতি ঘোষণা বা নির্দ্দেশ না থাকা সত্বেও বাংলার প্রত্যেক জেলায় জেলায় এই প্রকার মূল্য-নিয়ন্ত্রণের ব্যবস্থা আরম্ভ হয়ে গেল। শুধু তা নয়; এই মূল্য-নিয়ন্ত্রণ জনসাধারণ চেয়েছিল

যাতে দাম না বাড়ে। কিন্তু দেখা গেল, যতই মূল্য-নিয়ন্ত্রণ করতে যাচ্ছে দাম তাতে আরো বেশী বাড়ছে। সে বাড়ে কেন? ছোটবেলার একটা গল্প মনে পড়লো। এক রাজা দুধ খেতে এসে একদিন দেখলেন যে দুধের মধ্যে একটা জলের ভাব দেখা যাচ্ছে। দেখে রাজা বললেন, হঠাৎ দুধটায় এরকম জলের ভাব কেন? তিনি ডাকলেন তার কর্ম্মচারীকে, কর্ম্মচারী ত উত্তর দিতে পারছে না, আমতা আমতা করছে। তখন রাজা বললেন, এত হবে না, আর একজন কর্ম্মচারী রাখো, যে ভাল করে দেখবে যে দুধটা ঠিক মত হচ্ছে কিনা। এখন দ্বিতীয় কর্ম্মচারী নিয়োগ হ'লো। তারপর দেখা গেল ঐ দ্বিতীয় কর্ম্মচারীর পর জলের ভাগ যেন আরো বেড়েছে। তখন রাজা দেখলেন যে তাইতো, কর্ম্মচারী একজনের যায়গায় দুই জন রেখে দিলাম, তাতেও জলের ভাগ বাড়ছে। এ দুজনের যায়গায় তিনজন রাখি। সেই তৃতীয় ব্যক্তি দেখবে যে এই যে দু জন এরা ঠিকমত দুধকে পর্য্যবেক্ষণ করছে কিনা। এখন তৃতীয় ব্যক্তি নেওয়ার পর দেখা গেল যে জল আরো বাড়লো। তখন রাজা দেখলেন মহা বিপদ। তখন তিনি ডাকলেন বুড়া মন্ত্রীকে, যে এত করে কর্ম্মচারী নিয়োগ করলাম তা সত্বেও দুধের জল বেড়েই চলেছে কেন। মন্ত্রী বললে, আচ্ছা যে বেটা দুধ দেয় তাকে ডেকে এনে জিজ্ঞাসা করা যাক্ যে সে ব্যাটা কেন দুধে জল দেয়। কর্ম্মচারী নিয়োগ না করে, আগে তাকে একবার ডাকা যাক। তখন সেই দুধ যে দেয় সেই গোয়ালাকে ডেকে আনার পর জিজ্ঞাসা করলো, যে দুধে জল হচ্ছে কেন। বল্‌লে, হুজুর আগে ছিল একজন কর্ম্মচারী, সেখানে তিন জন কর্ম্মচারী করেছেন, যদি আর একজন করেন সেখানে শুধু জল পাবেন না, মাঝে মাঝে চিংড়ী মাছও লাফাবে। (Laughter.) কাযেই যখন এই Price Control Commttee হ'লো এবং সঙ্গে সঙ্গে তার সঙ্গে Price Control কর্ম্মচারী নিয়োগ হ'লো, সে নিয়োগটি শুধু এই কলকাতায় নিবদ্ধ রইল না সমস্ত মফঃস্বল সহরেও হলো। এখন মফঃস্বলে এ দুঃখ আসলো কোথা থেকে? 'যদ্ যদাচরতে শ্রেষ্ঠস্তদ্‌দেবেতরে জনাঃ'; যখন কলকাতায় হয়েছে তখন মফঃস্বলই বা বাদ যাবে কেন। আমি একটা উদাহরণ দিচ্ছি কলকাতায় যখন চাল বিকোচ্চে আট টাকা তখন বরিশালে চাল বিকোচ্চে পৌনে ছয় টাকা। সেখানে কোন Price Controlএর প্রয়োজন ছিল না। কিন্তু কলকাতায় price control হয়েছে, বরিশালে কেন হবে না? তাহলে বরিশালের কোন বাহাদুরী থাকে না সে তো পিছনে পড়ে যায়। কাযেই বরিশালের Magistrate তাঁর যোগ্যতা প্রদর্শনের জন্য, তিনি তার price control করে দিলেন ছয় টাকা বারো আনায়। সেখানে ৬৸৴ আনায় আর পাওয়া যাচ্ছে না, ঐ control এর ধাক্কায় সেই পৌনে ছয় টাকার চাল এক চোটে পাওয়া সাত টাকা হ'লো। এর মধ্যে আর একটা ব্যাপার হ'লো যে লোকেরা বলতে লাগলো যে হঠাৎ নাকি জিনিষ কমতি পড়ে যেতে পারে। এই হলো যুক্তি। কাযেই যদি বড় বড় মহাজনেরা অনেক মাল কিনে গুদামজাত করে রাখে তাহলে লোকে বিপদে পড়তে পারে। তাই তাঁরা বুদ্ধি করে বার করলেন কি, না Permit System অর্থাৎ সেই আমাদের I. C. S. যাঁরা, তাঁরা সর্ব্বজ্ঞ, সর্ব্বশক্তিমান এবং সর্ব্ববুদ্ধিমান কিনা। কাযেই এমন কিছু জগতে নেই যা তাঁরা জানেন না। যদি একথা বলা যায় তাহলে British Government সে দিনই collapse করে যাবে কারণ এরা steel frame। কাযেই যেটা steel frame সেটার সম্পর্কে আমাদের বলার কিছু প্রয়োজন নেই। এখন সেই I. C. S. এর যত লোক তারাও হঠাৎ জেনে ফেললো যে কোন যায়গায় কোন জিনিষ কি প্রকার পাওয়া যায় এবং তাকে Permit Systemএর দ্বারা control করা যায় কিনা। সবই তারা জেনে ফেললে একেবারে

দিব্য দৃষ্টিতে—আর জেনে তারা Permit System আরম্ভ করে দিলে। এখন সেই Permit System এর ফলে দাঁড়াচ্ছে কি? এখন কেউ কোন জিনিষ কিনতে পারবেন না যদি Magistrate সাহেব permit না দেন্, যদি Subdivisional Officer বাবু permit না দেন্। আর এই permit দেওয়ার সময় ব্যাপার দাঁড়ালো কি? যে মফঃস্বলে কারো বাড়ী ৩০ মাইল দূরে, সেই মহকুমায় সহর থেকে তাকে যদি এক tin কেরোসিন তেল কিনতে হয়, দোকানদারকে আসতে হবে ৩০ মাইল দূরে, এসে permit নিতে হবে, নিয়ে আবার ফিরে যেতে হবে। যেয়ে এক টিন্ কেরোসিন তেল কিনে তাকে বেচতে হবে ঐ Controlled priceএ। কিন্‌তে হবে Controlled priceএ, বেচতে হবে Controlled priceএ। আচ্ছা জিজ্ঞাসা করি তার আসা যাওয়ার খরচ, এবং সহরে এত আতিথেয়তা নেই যে একজনের বাড়ীতে আসলে খেতে দেয়; hotel খরচ আছে। এর সঙ্গে সঙ্গে আবার আরো একটা জিনিষ ওৎপেতে আছে; ঐ যখনই কেউ permit আনতে যাবে, বলবে তোমাকে permit ত দিতে রাজি আছি, কেন না Government এর নির্দ্দেশ তবে War Fund এ চাঁদা দাও; এক নম্বর। War Fund এ চাঁদা দিলেই শেষ নয়। এখানে প্রয়োজন আছে War Fund এর, যুদ্ধ হলে তোমরা বাঁচবে। কাযেই War Fund এ চাঁদা দাও। আবার কেউ কেউ বলছে, যেমন আমাদের পিরোজপুরে, সেখানে হচ্ছে জলের কলের চাঁদা, তার মানে পিরোজপুরে জলের কল হবে।

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: On a point of order. কোন্ মন্ত্রী এই বক্তৃতার উত্তর দেবেন? উনি কোথায়?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister of Commerce.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: উনি কোথায়?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Mookerjee is taking notes.

Mr. SURENDRANATH BISWAS: যেমন অনেক সময় আপনারা থাকতেন, না তেমনি তিনিও এখানে নাই।

SJ. NARENDRA NATH DASGUPTA: এই চাঁদা আসলো সঙ্গে সঙ্গে; যুদ্ধের চাঁদা, জলের কলের চাঁদা। তারপরে যদি আরো কোন কিছু থাকে,—যাত্রাগান, বা theatre হয় সে যায়গায়, তাহলে তারও চাঁদা। ঐ এক টিন্ কেরোসিন তেল কিনতে তাকে দিতে হবে তিন টাকা বা চার টাকা। এখন এই চাঁদা দিয়ে সে এক টিন কেরোসিন নিয়ে গেল গ্রামে। সেখানে সে কিনলো যাতে তাতে বারো পয়সা কোরে তার খরচ পড়লো। এই খরচ করে তারপরে তাকে বিক্রী করতে হবে ১৪ পয়সায়। আচ্ছা জিজ্ঞাসা করি জগতে এমন নির্ব্বোধ কি কেউ আছে যে পাঁচ টাকার কেরোসিন তেলে দশ টাকা ব্যয় করে সেই আধ মণে দশ আনা লাভ করার জন্য কেউ দশ টাকা খরচ করে? কাযেই ফলে দাঁড়ায় কি? ঐ এক এক সের কেরোসিন তেল মফঃস্বলে গ্রামে দশ আনা, বারো আনা, চৌদ্দ আনা পর্য্যন্ত বিক্রী হয়েছে। আমি নিজে পর্য্যন্ত জানি। এই করে, এবং যারা একবার ঐ permit নিয়ে আসে, তারা শুধু কেনবার যে permit পায় তা নয় বা খুসী বেচবার permitও পায়। তার কারণ, যে এতগুলি চাঁদা দিয়েছে তার ত আর কোন পাপ হতে পারে না এবং তার কোন রকম শাসন হওয়ারও কোন প্রয়োজন নেই। শুধু

তা নয়, এইখানেই যদি শেষ হতো তাহালে বুঝতাম। এখন ব্যাপার হচ্ছে যে price control আছে যে কেউ চাল বেচবে না পৌনে সাত টাকার উপরে। হঠাৎ দেখা গেল যে বরিশালে চাল কিনছে সাড়ে সাত টাকা পৌনে আট টাকা দরে। জিজ্ঞাসা করা গেল যে সাড়ে সাত টাকা, পৌনে আট টাকা দরে, যেখানে controlled price rate হ'লো পৌনে সাত টাকা সেখানে এক টাকা বেশীতে হরদম হাজার হাজার মণ চাল কিনছে কে? এবং কেমন করে এটা হচ্ছে? হঠাৎ জানতে পারা গেল যে চাউলটা নিচ্ছে Ispahani Co.। সেখানে price control নেই; রাজার নন্দিনী প্যারী, যা করে তাই শোভা পায়। Ispahani Co., Shaw Wallace Co. যখন চাউল কিনছে price controlএর এক টাকা, আট আনা, দশ আনা উপরে দর দিয়ে, তখন কোন police নেই, কোন Magistrate নেই, control করে (A VOICE: ওটা কি এই Governmentএর underএ?) (Mr. S. SUHRAWARDY: বেশ, বেশ!) এখন কথা হলো এরা রাজার নন্দিনী পেয়ারী! যখন মন্ত্রীদের কাছে আসা গেল বলা হ'লো, "মহাশয় একি হচ্ছে?" বললেন "হচ্ছে নাকি?" তাঁরা তো একেবারে আকাশ থেকে পড়লেন, তাঁরা কিছু বলতে পারেন না। যখন মন্ত্রীরা কিছু বলতে পারেন না তখন আরো একটু অন্তরাল—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are entitled to speak for half an hour. Will you kindly conclude your speech as early as possible? I am only suggesting to you that if it is possible for you to finish your speech early, it will be helpful.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DASGUPTA: I shall try to finish as early as possible but it is a very important subject. এখন ব্যাপার দাঁড়ালো যে যখন যবনিকার আরো একটু অন্তরাল ভেদ করা গেল তখন দেখা গেল যে সেই যবনিকা, আমাদের সমস্ত রাষ্ট্রতন্ত্রের যবনিকার ওপারে যে পরম পুরুষ বিদ্যমান থেকে সমস্ত রাষ্ট্রতন্ত্রকে নিয়ন্ত্রিত করেন, এই সমস্ত Company সেই যবনিকাকে ভেদ করে, সেই পরম পুরুষের কাছে উপস্থিত হয়ে তাঁহার আশীর্বাদ এবং তাঁহার নির্দেশ অনুসারে সেই কৃপালনীর কৃপায় (laughter) এই প্রকার সর্বনাশ হচ্চে। তখন বোঝা গেল যে তত্ত্বটা কোথায়। আমরা ছোট কালে শুনতাম যে অনেক বড় বড় বুদ্ধিমান গরু বা ঘোড়া আছে যারা বেড়া ডিঙ্গিয়ে ঘাস খায়, লোকে ধরতে পারে না। দেখা গেল যে সেই প্রকার এই জিনিষ কেনার সময় বহু এই প্রকার গরুর আবির্ভাব হয়েছে যাহারা সেই বেড়া ডিঙ্গিয়ে ঘাস খাচ্ছে; ঐ মন্ত্রীদের বেড়াকে ডিঙ্গিয়ে একেবারে সোজা গিয়ে ঘাস খাচ্ছে (A VOICE: নাম করুন)। এই যে নাম বলেছি,—Shaw Wallace & Co., Ispahani & Co., ইত্যাদি। আরো অনেক আছে, ওঁরা হয়ত নাম বলতে পারবেন, কারণ ওঁরাই জানেন একটু বেশী। (A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITION: হাঁ, হাঁ, আমরা খুব জানি।) আমাদের খুঁজে বের করতে হচ্ছে কিনা, সেজন্য বেশী পাই না। (Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: হেমেন্দ্র দত্ত এক) আছে, অনেক দত্ত, অনেক আছে। এখন ব্যাপার হচ্ছে যে এই যে জিনিষ বেশী দামে কিনতে আরম্ভ করলে, পৌনে সাত টাকা যেখানে দর সেখানে সাড়ে সাত টাকা। ফলে হ'লো কি? হাজার হাজার মণ চাল বরিশাল থেকে বেরিয়ে গেল। আমি বরিশালের কথা বিশেষভাবে বলছি। বরিশাল থেকে হাজার হাজার মণ চাল বেরিয়ে কোথায় গেল কে জানে। আর সঙ্গে সঙ্গে তাদের এ চাল কেনার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে যেখানে পৌনে সাত টাকা ছিল চালের দাম, সেইখানে বরিশালের লোককেই

আজ চাল কিনতে হচ্চে নয় টাকায়। এই যে price controlএর পৌনে সাত টাকা কিন্তু সে আজও আছে, control ঠিকই আছে, কিন্তু লোকেদের কিনতে হচ্চে আজ নয় টাকা দিয়ে বরিশালে। এই যে চালের তত্ত্ব, একে অনুসন্ধান করে আমাদের দেখতে হবে যে এই price controlএর মূল্য কি। দ্বিতীয়তঃ এই যে permit system নিয়ে আমরা বলছিলাম যে Governmentএর ছাড়পত্র নিয়ে লোককে কিনতে হবে, সাধারণ লোককে ত কিনতে হবেই; কিন্তু কেন সেখানে এমন করে যেয়ে ব্যক্তিরা উপস্থিত হোলো যাঁরা ছাড়পত্র ব্যতীত নিজেদের খুসীমত চাল কিনতে পারলেন? এটা সম্ভব হোলো কি করে? সেটা বাংলার মন্ত্রীদের আজ দেখাতে হবে, দাবী করতে হবে, এবং এই পাপকে রোধ করতে হবে। এখন কথা হচ্ছে যে এই যে permit দেওয়া হচ্চে, এই permit systemএর ফলে দাঁড়ালো কি? আমাদের দেশে একটা কথা, আছে "জলে কুমীর, আর ড্যাঙ্গায় বাঘ"। সেই ব্যবসাদারদের হাত থেকে রক্ষার জন্য সাঁতার কেটে যখন সেই Government price control করে ড্যাঙ্গায় তুলে ফেলে, সঙ্গে সঙ্গে আসে permit system, এবং এই সমস্ত Government Officials, যারা ঐ বেড়া ডিঙ্গিয়ে উপরে যেয়ে সমস্ত ব্যাপারকে বিধিবন্দোবস্ত করে সেই বাঘের দল; সে ড্যাঙ্গায় এসে চেপে ধরলে বাংলাকে। কাযেই এই বাঘের হাত থেকে রক্ষা পাওয়ার উপায় আমাদের করতেই হবে। অবশ্য একটা কথা আছে, "অভাগা যদ্যপি চায়, সাগর শুকায়ে যায়"। কাযেই লক্ষ্মী হোলো লক্ষ্মীছাড়া। কাযেই বাংলার লোক আজ অভাগা। বাংলায় প্রায় দেড়শো বৎসর পূর্ব্বে যে রাষ্ট্রতন্ত্র চলছিল মীর জাফরের, তার অবসান হওয়ার পর যখন আসলো নূতন রাজত্ব মীর কাসেমের, তখন বাংলার লোক ভেবেছিল যে মীর জাফরের দল চলে গিয়েছে, বাংলার কপাল বুঝি একটু ফিরবে। মীর কাসেম করেছিলেন কি? যখন ইংরেজদের ঠেকাতে পারলেন না তখন তিনি করলেন যে সকলকেই অবাধ বাণিজ্যের অধিকার দিয়ে দিলেন,—দিয়ে তিনি বিচার করেছিলেন। আমি সেই মীর জাফরের পর যাঁরা এসেছেন মীর কাসেমের দল তাঁদের নিবেদন করছি, জানি Clive Streetএর প্রভাব তাঁদের উপর বিদ্যমান আছে; তাদের বজ্রমুষ্টি ছাড়া কিছু নেই; কিন্তু তাঁরা এটুকু কি করতে পারেন না, সেই মীর কাসেমের বদান্যতার অনুসরণ করে আজ এই permit systemটাকে বাংলা থেকে দূর করে দেন? (A voice: তাঁরা মীর কাসেম হ'লে ত করবেন।)

এই গেল এক দিক দিয়ে permit system। আর এক দিক দিয়ে permit system হচ্ছে, এই বিষয়ে বাংলার মন্ত্রী-সভা বলবে আমাদের ত হাত নেই,—সে permit system এসেছে ঐ নৌকা-নিয়ন্ত্রণের ব্যাপার নিয়ে। এখন জাপান ব্রহ্ম দেশে নৌকা নিয়ে যুদ্ধের অনেক কিছু করেছিল, কাযেই জাপান যখন ব্রহ্ম দেশে করেছে, বাংলা দেশে নিশ্চয়ই করবে; না করে ত আর কথা নেই। কাযেই, আমি ত সমরতত্ত্ব-বিশারদ নই এবং যুদ্ধ সম্বন্ধে কিছু জানি না, এবং বিশেষতঃ ইংরাজদের যুদ্ধ, যে যুদ্ধে যে সেনাপতি যত বেশী হারে সে তত বড় সেনাপতি এবং যারা যুদ্ধে লেজ গুটিয়ে যত বেশী পালিয়ে আসতে পারে তারাই জগতে তত বড় অতুলনীয় বীর।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please don't speak anything about the war.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DASGUPTA: আসছি; সেই যুদ্ধের ব্যপদেশে বাংলা দেশে নৌকা-নিয়ন্ত্রণ করার ব্যবস্থা হোলো। ব্যবস্থা করার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে ঐ permit আবার নৌকা-নিয়ন্ত্রণ করলে; সেই permit এসে আবার নৌকার মধ্যেও ঢুকে বসলো। ফলে দাঁড়ালো কি?

তোমাদের যুদ্ধের উপর আমাদের কোন কথা নাই, কারণ যুদ্ধ করবে যারা তারা আমাদের কথা জিজ্ঞাসাও করবে না। আমাদের শুধু tax দেওয়া আর যদি বোমা পড়ে, মরা, আর যদি পালিয়ে সরতে পারি পালিয়ে সরা। এ ছাড়া আমাদের যুদ্ধ সম্পর্কে বেশী কিছু ভাববার কথা নাই। এখন তারা নৌকা-নিয়ন্ত্রণ করে দুটো ভাগ করলে; একটা হোলো denial area; অর্থাৎ জাপানীরা যদি এদেশে আসে তাহলে যাতে এই জিনিষপত্র না পেতে পারে, অস্বীকৃত হয়, বঞ্চিত হয়, তার একটা ব্যবস্থা। ফলে সেই বঞ্চিত জাপানী কতদূরে আছে না আছে তা আমরা জানিনা; ও সব যুদ্ধের কথা। কিন্তু এই বাঙ্গালী যারা, আমরা কিন্তু সব থেকে বঞ্চিত হচ্ছি,—আহার থেকে বঞ্চিত হচ্ছি, বিহার থেকে বঞ্চিত হচ্ছি এবং যত কিছু সুযোগ সুবিধা তার থেকে আমরা বঞ্চিত হচ্ছি। সঙ্গে সঙ্গে বাংলার সেই চালের পরে যে জিনিষ সব চেয়ে বেশী দরকারী সে হচ্ছে গিয়ে জেলেদের মাছ ধরা। তারা সমুদ্রে মাছ ধরতে পারে না, বড় বড় নদীতে মাছ ধরতে পারে না, সেখানে তাদের যাওয়া নিষেধ, এবং তাদের নৌকা সব ক্রোক্ করে দূরে চালান দিয়েছে এবং সেখানেও আবার সর্ব্বনাশ—তাদের নৌকার দাম দেওয়া হয়েছে, কোন কোন যায়গায়, নোয়াখালী প্রভৃতি যায়গায় দাম খুব ভাল রকম দিয়েছে কারণ সে যায়গায় আন্দোলন হয়েছে, সতীশ দাশগুপ্ত প্রভৃতি কারাবরণ করেছেন, কিন্তু যেসব যায়গায় কারাগারে কেউ যায়নি সেখানে কুড়ি টাকায় সেটা দেওয়া হয়েছে। নৌকা তুমি ত নিয়ে গেলে, সঙ্গে সঙ্গে নৌকাকে অবলম্বন করে তাদের যে উপজীবিকা ছিল, তার সর্ব্বনাশ হয়েছে। নৌকা করে নদীতে গিয়ে মাছ ধরতো, না হলে খেতে পায় না। সেটা দেখবার যুদ্ধ-বিশারদ যারা তাদের সময় হোলো না। আজ বহু লক্ষ জেলে অনশনে, অর্দ্ধাশনে কাল কাটাচ্ছে। বিশেষতঃ আমি বলছি এই বরিশাল, নোয়াখালী প্রভৃতি স্থানে যে যায়গা সমুদ্রতীরবর্ত্তী এবং denial areaর মধ্যে পড়েছে, সেই সব যায়গায়। তারপর denial areaর যে সীমা ভাগ করে' দিয়েছে

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: On a point of order, Sir. I think the honourable member is speaking on Resolution No. 1, but he is discussing the Denial policy of the Government.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. He is quite relevant.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DASGUPTA: কথা হচ্ছে যে এই সমস্ত নৌকাগুলি বন্ধ হয়ে যাওয়ার ফলে কোন কোন অঞ্চলে এখনও চালের দাম পাঁচ টাকা, আর এখানে সাধারণ চালের দাম হলো নয় টাকা। এই যে দামের পার্থক্য এ হওয়ার প্রধান কারণই হোলো এই নৌকা-নিয়ন্ত্রণ এবং নৌকার উপর permit systemএ এ রকম বিভেদ কেন? নৌকা সব এলাকায় যেতে পারবে না, সেজন্য একই জেলায় এই দামের পার্থক্য।

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: এই পাঁচ টাকা কোথায়, যে কিনবো?

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DASGUPTA: ভোলাতে গেলেও অনেক যায়গায় পাঁচ টাকা পাবেন; পিরোজপুরের দক্ষিণেও পাবেন; কিন্তু যেখানে Ispahani & Co. গিয়েছে, সেখানে পাবেন না। এখন এই যে ব্যাপারগুলি দাঁড়াচ্ছে, আমাদের কথা হচ্ছে এই যে, একদিকে যেমন সেই ব্যবসায়ীদের ঠাণ্ডা রাখার জন্য জিনিষের দাম বেঁধে দেওয়া উচিৎ, অপর দিকে দেশের এই দারুণ দুর্দ্দশার সুবিধা নিয়ে যে রাজকর্ম্মচারিগণ তাঁদের ক্ষমতার

অপব্যবহার করায় নিরীহ জনসাধারণদিগকে নিষ্পেষিত করে কেউ কেউ প্রভূত অর্থোপার্জন কোরেছে, নানা উপায়ে তারা টাকা রোজগার করছে সেটাকে অবিলম্বে বন্ধ করে দেওয়ার জন্য আজ Governmentকে অগ্রসর হইতেই হবে। (OPPOSITION: Hear, hear) এবং সেজন্য আমি Governmentকে বলছি যে এই যে permit system একে আগা গোড়া যেন তাঁরা তুলে দেন এবং নৌকা সম্পর্কে আমি বলছি যে নৌকার permit systemটা তুলে দিতে। সেই military authorities যদি আপত্তি করে তাদের কাছে এই প্রস্তাব আনা যেতে পারে, যে তোমরা ১৪ দিনের permit দিয়ে যে নৌকা পাঠাবে এর মধ্যে যদি জাপান আসে, নৌকা নেবে; তার চেয়ে ভাল বন্দোবস্ত হতে পারে যে তোমার যখন দরকার হবে নৌকাকে ফিরিয়ে আনার, তখন সমস্ত থানা এবং Union Boardএ Order পাঠাবে, যে "তোমাদের এলাকায় যত নৌকা আছে তাদের নিরূপিত যায়গায় পাঠিয়ে দাও।" এই ব্যবস্থা হলে permitও লাগবে না, অথচ নৌকাও ঠিক সময় আসবে; আর বর্ত্তমান যে ব্যবস্থা সে হবুচন্দ্র রাজার গবুচন্দ্রের ব্যবস্থা হচ্ছে।

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Quite Right. (A VOICE: You are right, you are right.)

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Sir, I beg to support the resolution moved by my friend Sj. Narendra Nath Das Gupta. The resolution has been moved at a time when the prices of all necessaries of life have gone up to such an extent, the resolution has been moved at a time when the prices exacted by the traders have gone up so abnormally high, and the resolution has been moved at a time when on the sham plea of issuing permits jobbery and bribery and corruptions are going on to such an extent that there is an apprehension, a serious apprehension, of the outbreak of trouble of the highest order if no effective steps are taken at this moment to remedy this state of affairs.

Sir, Government have established some price control committees, and in the mufassal and particularly in the subdivisions some sort of price control committees have been formed under the presidency of the Subdivisional Officer and his subordinate officers and some non-official gentlemen have been included in the committee. But in the actual work we find, Sir, that the non-official gentlemen are not consulted and sometimes the Subdivisional Officer leaves the matter in the hands of his subordinates who take recourse to means which are of a questionable nature. We find that in the matter of issuing permits, permits are not generally issued to the honest traders. We have found that a system has been introduced to realise war contributions. The realisation of war contributions is no doubt good and we do not object to it. But what we find, Sir, is that these officers in the name of issuing permits try to realise war contributions and they do such other things which are objected to from the nature of things. They do not issue permits to honest traders and persons who deal in articles honestly, but they generally issue permits to persons who pay large amount as war contributions. Receipts are not issued for the full amount. Sometimes receipts are not issued at all and sometimes if receipts are issued, the amount entered therein is much less than the actual amount paid. Sir, we have found that in the

name of controlling the prices some prices are fixed as maximum prices, and, Sir, these price controlling agencies sometimes take money from the traders and the traders in their turn exact their prices with vengeance. Then, Sir, some sort of tactics is also resorted to, and it is this that innocent traders are hauled up under the Defence of India Rules and then mysteriously let off and the reasons cannot be explained. The main reason is that some officers are filling up their pockets and if the necessary enquiry is made by District Officers I can assure the House that many cases will be found of persons who have made some money out of this. Over and above, Sir, the system of issuing permits is objectionable from another point of view. Permits are issued in a restrictive form and persons who take out permits, import goods and whenever purchasers approach them they generally say that they have no stock if the controlled price is offered but if abnormally high prices are offered, at that time the articles are delivered to them. If, Sir, the system of issuing permits is abolished, the people will be able to import things according to their sweet will and there will be healthy competition amongst them. Under the present system, Sir, some chosen people are given permits to import goods and they exact prices of course at the connivance of the price control committees and those prices are abnormally high. Sir, the situation has come to such a pass that if no proper notice is taken by the authorities, there is possibility of having recourse to loot by the people in order to have their bare necessities of life. That is why I urge that the resolution should be adopted and, at the same time, Government should keep vigilant eyes on the price control committees, so that corruptions may not be resorted to.

With these few words, Sir, I support the resolution.

Mr. RASIKLAL BISWAS : সভাপতি মহাশয়, যে বিষয়ের আলোচনা আজ এখানে আরম্ভ হোয়েছে, সে বিষয়টা অত্যন্ত গুরুতর। যুদ্ধ পরিস্থিতির জন্য বাংলাদেশে নানাদিক দিয়ে বিশৃঙ্খলা দেখা দিয়েছে; তার মধ্যে এই food problemটাই অবস্থাটাকে আরো complicated কোরে তুলেছে। যদি সময় থাক্‌তে এই problemটা ভালোভাবে দেখা হোতো তা'হোলে আমাদের দেশের অবস্থা এত গুরুতর হোয়ে উঠতো না। পল্লীগ্রামে—যেখানে ধান চাল প্রস্তুত হয়, সেখানে আজ ধান চালের দাম এত বেশী হোয়ে উঠেছে যে গরীব লোকদের আর কিনে খাবার মতন সামর্থ্য নাই। এর ফলে অবস্থা এই দাঁড়াতে পারে যে হয়তো অচিরেই লুটপাট আরম্ভ হবে। যাদের ঘরে কিছু শস্য জমা আছে,—সেটা আর তারা জমা রাখ্‌তে পারবে না। আর যাদের ঘরে নাই তারা লুটপাট কোরে যদি জেলে যায় সেইটেই তারা বেশী সুবিধাজনক বোলে মনে কোরবে। এখনই কলিকাতা সহরে এমন অবস্থা হোয়ে উঠেছে যে কতকগুলি প্রয়োজনীয় জিনিষ পাওয়া যাচ্ছে না। সে অবস্থার প্রতিকার এখনো হয় নাই, এবং প্রতিকার যে হবে অবস্থা দৃষ্টে তারও বিশেষ কোন আশা করা যেতে পারে না। আমাদের দেশের jute problem সমাধানের কোনও বিশেষ চেষ্টা হচ্ছে না। এই জিনিষটার বন্দোবস্ত যে ভাবে করা উচিৎ ছিলো গভর্ণমেণ্ট থেকে সেভাবে বন্দোবস্ত করা হয় নাই। এ-দিকে গভর্ণমেণ্টের হয়তো চেষ্টার ত্রুটি হয়নি, কিন্তু যে রকম ফল আশা করা গিয়েছিলো—সে রকম ফল পাওয়া যায় নাই।

গভর্ণমেণ্ট দেশের অভাব অনুসারে কতকগুলি জিনিষের দাম কম রাখ্‌বার জন্যে price control কোরেছিলেন। কিন্তু আবশ্যকমত price controlএর ব্যবস্থার অব্যবস্থার ফলে জিনিষের দাম নীচের দিকে না থেকে উপরের দিকেই উঠে গেছে। এবং price controlling যাঁরা চালিয়েছেন তাঁদের অযোগ্যতার জন্যই আসলে price control না কোরে জিনিষ control করা হোয়েছে। এ সম্বন্ধে পূর্ব্ববর্ত্তী বক্তারা যা বোলেছেন—তা ঠিক। আমার মনে হয় এই Departmentটায় officer যদি ঠিক রকমে নিযুক্ত করা হোতো যারা ভাল অভিজ্ঞতা অর্জ্জন কোরেছেন—যাঁদের ক্ষমতা আছে, যাঁদের সততায় কোন সন্দেহ নাই, এমন লোকের হাতে যদি ভার দেওয়া হোতো, তা হোলে এরকম অব্যবস্থা বাংলাদেশে ঘোট্‌তো না। আমি এ বিষয়ে আমাদের মন্ত্রী মহাশয় এবং অনেক High Officialদের কাছে বোলেছি কিন্তু দুর্ভাগ্যের বিষয় তাঁদের কাছে যে সমস্ত complain করা হোয়েছে তার কোনই প্রতিকার করা হয় নাই। এর দ্বারা মনে হয় যাঁরা প্রতিকার কোরবেন তাঁরা হয় প্রতিকার কোরতে অক্ষম, বা প্রতিকার করা প্রয়োজন মনে করেন নাই তাঁদের অক্ষমতার জন্যই এবং অসাধুতাকে তারা indulgence দেখিয়েছেন বলেই আজ এই দুরবস্থা হোয়েছে। আমার মনে হয়—jute problemএর বিষয়ে যদি মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী আরো সতর্ক দৃষ্টি দেন, তাহোলে food problem সম্বন্ধেও সুব্যবস্থা করা সহজ হবে। আমার মনে হয় এই যে এই Departmentটার control করবার জন্য এমন ব্যক্তিকে এখনই দেওয়া দরকার যার সততা সম্বন্ধে এবং কুশলতা সম্বন্ধে কোন সন্দেহ নাই। যাঁর সমস্ত দিকের অভিজ্ঞতা আছে,—মুখে ও মনে বল আছে এই রকম লোকের হাতেই এরকম Departmentএর ভার দেওয়া দরকার। বর্ত্তমানে যিনি আছেন যদি আর অব্যবস্থা না হয়, যদি তিনি ভালভাবে কাজ চালান তা'হোলে তার হাতেই রাখা যেতে পারে, নাহলে অবিলম্বে এটা পরিবর্ত্তন করা দরকার। আমি পুনরায় মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীকে এ বিষয়ে সতর্ক দৃষ্টি দিতে বোল্‌ছি।

আমার আর একটা suggestion আছে এই portfolio নিয়ে। সমস্ত party বোলছেন এই food problemই সব চেয়ে বর্ত্তমানে বেশী important. Cabinetএর মধ্যেও তেমনি সব চেয়ে বড় position hold যিনি করেন তাঁরি হাতে এটা দেওয়া দরকার। তিনি নিজে হাতে না নিলে কিছুই হবে না। (A VOICE: কে তিনি?) নাম আমি বোল্‌তে চাইনে। মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী নিজেরাই বিবেচনা কোরে নাম ঠিক কোরবেন। আমার মনে হয়—ডাঃ শ্যামাপ্রসাদ মুখার্জ্জি যদি এই portfolioটা হাতে নেন তাহোলে কাজ ভাল চোল্‌বে। নাহলে আমার মতন লোকের দ্বারা কিছুই হবে না। (Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA: কারো হাত থেকেই কিছু হবে না) তারপর আমার আরো বলবার বিষয় এই যে price control তুলে দিলে চোল্‌বে না। ওটা থাকা বিশেষ দরকার।

Mr. SERAJUL ISLAM: It is practically a censure on the Hon'ble Minister.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: On a point of order, Sir. The honourable member has said that this portfolio should be transferred from the existing Hon'ble Minister in charge of Commerce. Is it not a reflection on the ability of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Commerce?

Mr. CHAIRMAN (Mr. David Hendry): That is not a point of order. It is a question of opinion.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: It is not a point of order; it is a point of disorder. (Laughter.)

Mr. RASIKLAL BISWAS: মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের ability সম্বন্ধে আমার কোনো সন্দেহ নাই। কিন্তু আমি বোল্‌ছি—এই কথা যে এ বিষয়টা এত important যে cabinetএর মধ্যে এটাকে সব চেয়ে বড় place দেওয়া দরকার। তা নৈলে এ বিষয়ে আর প্রতিকারের কোন আশা নাই। আর আমার বক্তব্য এই যে price control থাকা দরকার, এবং এই price control যাতে সর্ব্বত্রই চলে—তারও ব্যবস্থা হওয়া দরকার। কোন্ জায়গায় control থাক্‌বে,—কোন্ জায়গায় সেটা থাক্‌বে না এ রকম যদি হয় তাহোলে সব গোলমাল হোয়ে যাবে। তাছাড়া permit system থাকার জন্যেও অনেক কিছু গোলমাল হোয়েছে। অনেকে বেশী টাকা দিয়ে permit সংগ্রহ কোরে অনেক জিনিষ কিনে রেখেছে, আর লোকেদের কাছে অনেক বেশী দামে বিক্রয় কোরে লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা লাভ কোরেছে, অতটা জিনিষ তাদের পাওয়া উচিত ছিলো না। তার ফল এই হোয়েছে যে honest ব্যবসাদারেরা জিনিষ পান নাই এবং সেই জন্য অনেক consumerরাও জিনিষপত্র পাচ্ছেন না।

War contribution নিয়ে যে সমস্ত permit দেওয়ার কথা উঠেছে সে সম্বন্ধে আমার কিছু বিশেষ বলার নাই। War contribution আদায় সম্বন্ধে কোন system নাই। কিন্তু food problemএর ব্যাপারেও যে war contribution আদায় করা সেটা বড়ই অন্যায়। আমি আর সময় নিতে চাই না, বিশেষতঃ আরো বক্তারা বোল্‌বেন। মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর নিকট আমার অনুরোধ—এই জিনিষটার উপর বেশী নজর না দিলে আমাদের দেশে একটা disaster হবে।

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I give my whole-hearted support to the resolution moved by Srijut Narendra Nath Das Gupta. It is not unknown to any of the members, not least to the Ministers that there has been some hardship on the poor people of the province due to abnormal rise in prices for bare necessities. Sir, there is control everywhere in the district, but there should be proper control. That is what is wanted by this resolution. Now I fully corroborate the statement made by my predecessor the mover, namely, that as soon as the control agency was established in every district prices began to go up gradually. I have not personally enquired into the matter, but I am informed that the mufassal dealers have to pay something more in addition to the control prices in indenting foodstuffs, viz., salt, sugar, etc., to mufassal districts. The important dealers in the city of Calcutta do not issue vouchers for the additional price they charge for these commodities. Now, these dealers in the mufassal in fixing their prices have to add to the control price that additional amount. Therefore, there is always a difference between the real price which these dealers want to charge from the consumers and the price fixed by the local controlling authorities. So, some sort of supervision is necessary here in Calcutta from where the mufassal dealers indent these foodstuffs and commodities. There is again another difficulty which is this, namely, there is no uniformity in prices in the different districts in the province. When a dealer in the mufassal finds that he can get a better profit if he sends his commodities to other neighbouring districts what he

does is this that he at once sends those articles of food to those districts. There is undoubtedly restriction in booking foodstuffs and other articles to provinces other than our own, but there is no restriction in sending foodstuffs from one district to another in this province. I draw the pointed attention of the Hon'ble Minister to do something to avoid this difficulty which really is one of the main causes for the dearth of foodstuffs in different districts in this province and also for the rise in prices. Sir, I have also heard of some sort of corrupt practices adopted by those officers who are in charge of these control affairs. It is very difficult to substantiate those charges for the traders who are affected are not willing to complain about these things against the controlling officers because if they make any complaint, they will not get any supply whatsoever in future.

Sir, in my district the question of permits is not of any importance because the permit system has not been introduced there. I have heard that people from outside went to my district and purchased a very huge quantity of paddy at prices much higher than the control price. My complaint is that in this case the local authorities did not take any step whatsoever or haul them up under the Defence of India Rules as they do in other cases. There is another difficulty in regard to the control of prices in this province. Just before I was leaving my constituency there was a dearth of sugar although information was that these local dealers had a sufficient amount of sugar and they concealed this stock of sugar at the private houses of their friends and they were declaring that they had no stock of sugar at all. But Sir, we all know and you know that there is a sugar mill there, namely, the Setabganj Sugar Mill belonging to Surujmall and Nagarmal of Calcutta. The district authorities feel some kind of difficulty in getting supplies from the sugar mills because the production of sugar is a central matter and this province has really little control over this. Though there was large stock of sugar in the mill, Dinajpur went without sugar for about a week, and the little sugar that was available to the consumers was selling at a much higher rate than the fixed control price. These are the difficulties which are facing us. We are grateful to the honourable member who has given us this opportunity this morning to discuss an important matter like this on the floor of this House because it is not our brain, Sir, but it is our bellies which are vitally concerned. It is a question which concerns the six crores of people of this Province who are very very poor and who have no means to stock in advance anything for consumption. It is a problem which requires very serious attention and consideration. I think some kind of effective and real control is what is needed and the matter should be taken up in right earnest and without delay, for delay really means denial of food to the poor people of this province.

Sir, I have tried my best to present the difficulties which we are facing every day in our districts, and before I resume my seat I earnestly appeal to Government that they will, by solving these difficulties, earn the deepest gratitude of the suffering people of this province at this critical time.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I did not wish to intervene in this debate as I was to move Resolution No. 2, on the

Agenda today. It appears, however, that the bogey Dr. Sanyal raised in this House last session seems to be still sitting on the brains of the Government party. The mover of Resolution No. 1, mentioned the name of Ispahanis twice in his speech. The Ispahanis, as a matter of fact, have nothing whatsoever to do with the control of prices or the sale of rice in any part of Bengal. To make irresponsible statements, as made by the mover and that too from the Government side, does convey to me that these people have no case to place before the Assembly and, further, that the case, they have tried to present, has no legs to stand upon. That such an important resolution should have been spoiled so badly by such cheap argument, was not good for the service the mover wished to render. The interests of the Ispahanis, so far as price was concerned, came in when the danger, of the enemy coming and taking away our rice stored in certain districts, presented itself before the Government. It was the Government that went down on its knees before large commercial interests in Clive Street who, one and all, declined to help it. It required huge finance, great efficiency, a vast organisation but above all a large heart and indomitable courage to do the job for the risk involved was great. It was these that induced and encouraged the firm of Ispahanis to help the Government out of its very serious difficulties. I know, Sir, from personal knowledge, that some members of the Cabinet were wild with the officials and the Minister-in-charge, when they found that the Government had accepted the offer from, as a Minister was reported to have characterised the firm as "deadliest enemies", of the Ministry. But fortunately for Bengal and unfortunately for the critics this "deadliest enemy" was able to pull the Government out of the unenviable predicament into which it had fallen. The scheme of removing surplus rice from dangerous areas to safer places was to apply to three districts only, Midnapore, Khulna and Barisal. I ask the Hon'ble Minister to get up in this House and declare openly what the Ispahanis had said. "We shall render what service we can: we shall put in all the money required and any profits that accrue would be placed at the disposal of His Excellency the Governor to be given to any charities he liked." That statement, Sir, I want confirmed by the Minister. Was such an offer made or not?

Influences began to work and Cabinet Ministers and influential members of the party felt that they too should have a share in the job. It was then that the Ispahanis, good business men that they are, reduced their liability and risk and said, "We do not want to create trouble. The idea is to remove all surplus rice to safer places from Barisal, Khulna and Midnapore. Let all help." They retired from Barisal and Khulna voluntarily, keeping Midnapore to themselves. A Muslim gentleman, non-Muslim Leaguer, was brought into the picture and a group of petty contractors, friends of members of the Government Party, were given the contracts. What the Ispahanis had done in Midnapore in one week they have not been able to do in Khulna and Barisal during all these months. (Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: "Question.") Let the Ministers question: these questionings have no value because these gentlemen know nothing of this. (Loud cries of "Oh! Oh!" from the Progressive Coalition Party and counter-cries from the Opposition

benches.) That is the reason, Sir, why the "deadliest enemies" of the Government were given the contract. If Government could, it would have offered the job to Clive Street and, perhaps, to other interests; but where the interests of Muslim traders, Muslim agriculturists and of Muslims living in the districts of Bengal are concerned, I stand up here and declare with all the force and sincerity I command, it will be the Muslim heart that will be touched, and it is the greatness of the Muslim heart in them that led the Ispahanis to shoulder this great risk at a time when the Japanese were expected to make their appearance at any moment. When European and Indian firms declined to touch one grain of rice because of the risks involved, it was the firm of Ispahanis, the "deadliest enemies" of the Government, that stood by it. I hope, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister will have the largeness of heart to acknowledge the services rendered by this great Muslim business house, not for money but to help the poor Muslims of those parts and to serve a noble cause, not as merchants but as true Muslims. I shall also expect the Minister to tell us how matters stand in Barisal and Khulna today.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now when it is about eleven o'clock I should like to know whether the House wants the debate on this resolution still to continue. The Hon'ble Minister will take at least 15 minutes for his reply, and unless I ask the Hon'ble Minister to make his reply now I will not be able to dispose of this resolution today.

Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA: This is a very important question, Sir, and there are various other members who would also like to speak threadbare on it. Could you not, therefore, fix another day not for this resolution only but for the next one also?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: My difficulty is that I cannot extend the number of days fixed for the session. However, I will try and persuade the Government to allot another non-official day.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: May I also say a few words in this connection? Already the Government Party Whip has made a request for another non-official day for Resolutions, and you can take a note that that is the united demand of the House as a whole.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I will remember it.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, may I just enquire through you of Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi who seems to have taken a brief on behalf of Messrs. Ispahani & Co. whether he will agree to an enquiry being made into the whole Ispahani affair?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a different matter.

(Babu Narendra Narayan Chakrabarty rose to speak.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Chakrabarty, please try to finish in 10 minutes.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, your influence may not be so powerful as that of the Secretary of the Government Party. Therefore, Sir, it will be better to leave him to influence the Cabinet and get an extra day.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will see to that.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: মাননীয় সহ-সভাপতি মহাশয়,—আজকে যে সমস্যার আমরা সম্মুখীন হোয়েছি, এবং যে বিষয়ের আমরা আজ আলোচনা আরম্ভ কোরেছি আমার নিজের বিশ্বাস, এবং সঙ্গে সঙ্গে আমার এ ধারণাও আছে যে এই পরিষদের সমস্ত সদস্যেরও এই-ই বিশ্বাস যে বাংলার সমস্ত সমস্যাকে,—এক রাজনৈতিক সমস্যাবাদে,—ছাপিয়ে উঠেছে এই খাদ্য-সমস্যা ; এবং এ সম্বন্ধে প্রত্যেক সদস্যের নিজের নিজের জেলার অভিজ্ঞতা এমন তীব্র এবং তিক্ত হোয়ে উঠেছে যে, তাঁরা যখন নিজ গ্রামে, নিজ নির্ব্বাচন-কেন্দ্রে যান, তখন প্রত্যেকেই বুঝ্‌তে পারেন যে বাংলার অতি সন্নিকটে আজ সেই দিন,—যেদিন আমাদের নিজেদের জীবন সর্ব্বত্র বিপন্ন হোয়ে উঠ্‌বে। সম্প্রতি আমি আমার নিজের নির্ব্বাচনকেন্দ্রে গিয়েছিলাম। প্রতি দিন অজস্র লোক আমার কাছে এসেছে এই ভেবে যে, বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্টের সঙ্গে আমরা যখন সংশ্লিষ্ট, হয়তো কিছু একটা প্রতিকারের সন্ধান আমার কাছ থেকে তাদের মিল্‌তে পারে। কিন্তু আমি জানি, এবং আমার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে এখানকার সমস্ত সদস্যই জানেন যে আমরা কত নিরুপায়! কিছুই আমাদের করবার উপায় নেই। এবং আজকের দিনে কোনো রাজকর্ম্মচারীর প্রতি অভিযোগ কোরে অথবা অন্য কারো উপর দোষারোপ কোরেও কিছু লাভ নেই। যাঁরা পৃথিবীর ইতিহাসের সঙ্গে পরিচিত তাঁরা প্রত্যেকেই জানেন, যে সমস্ত দেশ স্বাধীন, তাদের ইতিহাস পোড়লে, বিগত মহাযুদ্ধের ইতিহাস পোড়লে, দেখা যায় war lords যাঁরা, Cabinet member যাঁরা তাঁদের কেলেঙ্কারীতে ইতিহাসের পৃষ্ঠা কতটা কলঙ্কিত হোয়ে রোয়েছে। অমন যে চার্চ্চিল তার নামেও যথেষ্ট আছে নানা রকমের অপবাদ,—চুরি, ঘুস্ ইত্যাদির। কিন্তু এসব আজকের সমস্যা নয়, আজকে আমাদের কাছে সব চেয়ে বড় সমস্যা হোচ্ছে—কি কোরে দেশের মানুষকে বাঁচানো যায়। বর্ম্মা থেকে চাল আসা সম্পূর্ণ বন্ধ হোয়ে গেছে, অনাবৃষ্টি ও অতিবৃষ্টিতে বাংলার আগামী ফসলের আশা নির্ম্মূলপ্রায় ; তার উপর ভারত সরকার মাসে ৩৮ হাজার টন চাল দিচ্ছেন সিলোনকে। তাদের সমবায়োজন সব চেয়ে বড় কথা। সে আয়োজনের প্রয়োজন সকল প্রয়োজনকে ছাপিয়ে উঠেছে।

তাই আজ বৈদেশিক শাসনের প্রচণ্ড চাপের তীব্রতা ও নৃশংসতার আঘাতে আমাদের সমস্ত জাতিটাকে ব্যতিব্যস্ত কোরে তুলেছে। আজ যেটা আমাদের প্রয়োজন, সেটা তাদের প্রয়োজনই নয়, সেই জন্যেই আজ একথা মিথ্যা—যে বিশেষ কোন রাজকর্ম্মচারী ইচ্ছা কোরলেই কিছু কোরতে পারেন। কারণ এক ছটাক আধ ছটাক কি এক সেরের তো প্রশ্ন নয়। সমগ্র জাতির সম্মুখে দুর্ভিক্ষ, অনাহার ও মৃত্যুর বিভীষিকা ভিড় ক'রে দাঁড়িয়েছে। আগামী তিন মাস পরে মানুষ টাকার থলি নিয়ে বোসে থাক্‌বে, কিন্তু সে টাকা তাকে চাল দিতে পারবে না। লোকে সোণার বাণ্ডিল নিয়ে বোসে থাকবে—কিন্তু সামান্য এক মুঠি চাল যোগাড় কোরে খেতে পাবে না। ধনী, দরিদ্র, মুটে, মজুর, রাজা, প্রজা, জমিদার, মহাজন সকলেরি সম্মুখে একই অবস্থা

এসে দাঁড়াবে। 'অনিতরুম' আনন্দমঠে সেই যে দুর্ভিক্ষের ছবি দেখেছেন,—ধনী, জমিদার অফুরন্ত টাকা নিয়ে বোসে আছে—কিন্তু ক্ষুধিত সন্তানের মুখে এক মুঠো চাল কি এক ফোঁটা দুধ যোগাড় কোরে দিতে পারছে না ঠিক সেই অবস্থা আবার আমাদের সম্মুখে এসে দাঁড়াচ্ছে। সেই রকম গাছের পাতা খেয়ে মানুষ বাঁচ্‌তে চাইবে, কিন্তু তাও পাওয়া যাবে না। এই বিভীষিকার মধ্যে বাঁচ্‌বার যে গ্লানি আমাদের সম্মুখে বাস্তব হোয়ে উঠেছে—এইটেই আজ আমাদের সকলকার সমস্যা। কাজেই কাউকে দোষারোপ কোরে লাভ নেই, আমার বন্ধু রসিক বিশ্বাস মহাশয়েরও নয়। একটু আগেই তিনি মাননীয় জনৈক মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে অযোগ্য বোলেছেন। রসিক বিশ্বাস মহাশয়ের যোগ্যতা ও বিশ্বস্ততার বিষয় আমাদের কারো জান্‌তে বাকি নেই, কোন দলের সঙ্গে সংযুক্ত থাকা সত্ত্বেও সেই দলের প্রতি বিশ্বাস ভঙ্গ করাই তাঁর স্বভাব। যদি কোন ব্যক্তি একটা দলের অন্তর্ভুক্ত থেকেও সেই দলের প্রতি বিশ্বাস ভঙ্গ করে তাহোলে তাকে দল থেকে বের কোরে দেওয়াই হোচ্ছে Parliamentary নীতি। অবশ্য এটা দলের লোকদের পক্ষে আনন্দের বিষয় নয়—লজ্জার কথা, বেদনার কথা। কিন্তু যে দলেই যে থাকবে—সে দলের আনুগত্য নিয়ে দলের প্রতি বিশ্বস্ততা নিয়েই থাকবে। মানুষকে পিছন থেকে কাটবার এই যে দুষ্প্রবৃত্তি, এই যে চরম বিশ্বাসঘাতকতা—এ অপরাধের মার্জনা নেই। কালই Ministerএর বাড়ী যেতে হবে তাঁর পা চাট্‌বার জন্যে, তাঁর অনুগ্রহ ভিক্ষা করবার জন্যে; আর আজ এখানে দিয়ে গেলেন বড় গলায় গরম গরম বক্তৃতা। এসব অভিনয়ের ফাঁকি বুঝ্‌তে আমাদের আর কিছু বাকি নেই।

যাক, বর্ত্তমানের এই যে কঠোর ও রূঢ় বাস্তব সমস্যা একে বাস্তব দৃষ্টিভঙ্গী দিয়েই আমাদের বিচার করতে হবে। ভাবাবেগ দিয়ে বা ব্যর্থ ও নিরর্থক সমালোচনা ক'রে এ অবস্থার প্রতিকার করা যাবে না। এ সমস্যা কোন একজন মন্ত্রীর সমস্যা নয়, তাঁর একার পক্ষে এ সমস্যা নিরাকরণ করাবারও উপায় নেই। এতে আমাদের সমবেত চেষ্টা চাই, আমাদের সকলের এক-প্রাণতা চাই। এটা হোচ্ছে সমগ্র জাতির সমস্যা—জাতির চরিত্র পরীক্ষার এটা হোচ্চে প্রশ্ন। আমার মনে পড়ে—বিবেকানন্দের সেই বাণী:—'It is neither name, nor fame, nor even learning; it is character that can cleave through adamantine walls of difficulties.' চরিত্রই সব কিছুর নিয়ামক। সে সব কিছু বাধা বিঘ্নকে অতিক্রম কোরতে পারে। সে চরিত্র আমাদের নেই। আমরা নানা সঙ্ঘ বা সমিতি গড়ে তুলি, মিটিং করি, কমিটি করি—তার পর চাঁদা ওঠাই, উঠিয়ে সেটা খেয়ে বসি। এটা সত্য কথা। সেই চরিত্র যদি অর্জন কোরতে পারতাম তাহোলে নিজেকে এতটা অসহায় ভাবতে পারতাম না। সমস্ত বাধা বিঘ্ন পায়ে দলে লক্ষ্যের দিকে, অভিষ্টের দিকে এগিয়ে যেতামই। যাদের উপর অনায়াসে আমরা দোষ চাপাই, সেই সব সরকারী কর্ম্মচারীরা কি আমাদেরই জাতির অংশ নয়? কনেষ্টবল থেকে আরম্ভ করে গভর্ণমেণ্টের বড় বড় officersব জাতিরই অঙ্গ। আজ জাতি পরাধীন হোয়ে আছে, সেইজন্যে তারা ইংরেজ জাতির গোলামি কোরছে, যখন দেশ স্বাধীন হবে,—তখন তারা হবে—জাতিরই সেবক। কাউকে গাল দিয়ে লাভ নাই, সে আমারি অন্তর্ভুক্ত,—আমারি অঙ্গের অচ্ছেদ্য ক্ষত,—দুষ্টব্রণ। যারা আমরা মনে করি যে আমরা জাতির প্রতিনিধি, তাদের প্রত্যেক লোকেরই দায়িত্ব হবে এই কথা ভাবা যে, আমরা কি কোরে জাতিকে বাঁচাবো। জাতির সম্মুখে এই যে বিভীষিকা,—এই যে আসন্ন মৃত্যু, এই দুর্ব্বহ সঙ্কট,—এ থেকে জাতিকে কি কোরে জীবনের পথে পরিচালনা কোরবো। যুদ্ধ বেঁধেছিলো, কোন্ সুদূর সেই

য়ুরোপে,—সে যুদ্ধের সঙ্গে আমাদের কি সম্পর্ক জানি নে, কিন্তু আজ আমাদের ভাগ্য নিয়ে ভাগ্য-বিধাতা যে লড়াই সুরু কোরেছেন তাতে আমরা কোথায় নিশ্চিহ্ন হোয়ে যাবো তার পাত্তা নেই। এই যে আমাদের জীবন মরণের যুদ্ধ এই যুদ্ধের রথচক্রতলে আমরা নিষ্পেষিত হোতে চোলেছি। কে এ সময় কথা তুলবে স্বার্থের? অথবা আত্মকলহের?

আমি বাড়ী যেতে নৌকো ভাড়া কোরেছিলাম। নৌকোর মাঝি বোল্লে "বাবু আমরা সব ঠিক কোরেছি যে—জেলে যাবো।" আমি জিজ্ঞাসা কোরলাম,—"কেন জেলে যাবে?" সে উত্তর কোরলে—"সেখানেতো আর চাল কিনতে হবে না, বিনি পয়সায় তো খেতে পাবো।" হাঙ্গামা ও অশান্তিতে সমগ্র দেশের বুক আলোড়িত হ'য়ে উঠেছে গভর্ণমেণ্ট বোলছেন—এটা রাজনৈতিক হাঙ্গামা, মিথ্যা কথা। It is a sad lie এটা political disturbance নয়; রাজনীতি নিয়ে এমনভাবে জনসাধারণ ক্ষুব্ধ হ'য়ে ওঠে না। এ পেটের আগুন—বাঁচবার আকুতি—চাহিদা। সম্পূর্ণই এটা একটা economic disturbance. ক্ষুধার যে জ্বালা—সেই জ্বালার আগুনে সমগ্র জাতির পেট দাউ দাউ কোরে জ্বলে উঠছে,—বুক শুকিয়ে উঠেছে। সেই জন্য জাতি আজ বোলছে—এ থেকে আমরা পরিত্রাণ চাই। মানুষের বাঁচবার আকাঙ্ক্ষার চাইতে বড় আকাঙ্ক্ষা আর কিছু নেই। পিতা তার পরম পূজনীয়, স্ত্রী সব চেয়ে প্রিয়তম, পুত্র তার প্রাণাধিক, তবু সে নিজে নিজেকে যত ভালোবাসে এত কাউকে নয়। সে সর্ব্বাগ্রে নিজের আত্মরক্ষার জন্য ব্যস্ত। বাঁচবার জন্যে তীব্র আকাঙ্ক্ষা ও কামনা তাকে ঠেলে নিয়ে যাচ্ছে মৃত্যুর মুখে। মৃত্যুকে আলিঙ্গন কোরেও মরণকে বরণ কোরেও সে বাঁচতে চাইছে। তাই আজ গ্রামে গ্রামে আগুন জ্বলে উঠেছে—বুভুক্ষিতের দল গোলা লুট কোরছে—দোকান লুট কোরছে। সেখানে কোথায় কংগ্রেস্? It is not a Congress movement. It is not a political movement. কংগ্রেসের এ আন্দোলন নয়, রাজনৈতিক হিড়িক এ নয়। এ পেটের জ্বালা অগ্নিউদ্গীরণ করছে। তারই দাহ এ। তাই এ দাহ এত কঠোর। নগ্ন, সত্য, বাস্তব। মানুষ চিৎকার করে শুধু বলছে, খেতে চাই। কিন্তু সে চায়—চাল, পায় সে গুলি। চায় রুটি, পায় সে লাঠি। মেদিনীপুরের ইতিহাস শুনুন। সেখানে লোকেরা বোলেছিলো—ধানের গোলার ধান যেন বাইরে যেতে না পাবে। সেখানকার লোকেরা বোলেছিলো "আমরা পাইনে খেতে আর গোলার ধান চালান হোয়ে যাবে? আমরা কেড়ে নিয়ে যাবো জোর কোরেই,—নৈলে আমরা খাবো কি?" (A voice—তাহলে Post Office পোড়ায় কেন?) পোষ্টাফিসের কথা বোলছেন? পোষ্টাফিস বলুন, রেলওয়ে বলুন—সবই একটা organic whole অবিচ্ছিন্ন। একটা systemএর এক একটা অংশ। তারা মনে কোরছে—যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট দুশো বছর ধোরে বোলে এসেছে, "আমরাই তোমাদের খাওয়াবার জন্য, রক্ষা করবার জন্য দায়ী, আমরা তোমাদের সুখ সুবিধার জন্য দায়ী"। কিন্তু আজ তারা দেখছে কি? দুশো বছরের মিথ্যার পাহাড় আজ ধ্বসে গেল। গভর্ণমেণ্ট নির্লজ্জভাবে দায়িত্ব অস্বীকার করেছে। অসহায় জাতি চারিদিকে চেয়ে নিজের পরিপূর্ণ অসহায়তা ছাড়া আর কিছুই দেখতে পাচ্ছে না। তার কেউ নেই, কিছু নেই। দুশো বছরের বৈদেশিক শাসন পক্ষাঘাতের অচলায়তন তার বুকের উপর চাপিয়ে দিয়ে কাপুরুষের মতই সকল দায়িত্ব পরিহার করতে বসেছে। তাই সে অসহায় শিশুর মতই হাত পা ছুঁড়ছে। মানুষের মৃত্যুর আগে যে একটা খিচুনি ওঠে, আজ জাতিরও যেন সেই খিচুনিই এসেছে।

কিন্তু এ সমস্যারও সমাধান হ'তে পারে যদি আমরা সম্মিলিতভাবে কাজে লাগতে পারি। জাতির সমস্যা, ব্যক্তি মেটাতে পারে না। জাতিকেই এ দায়িত্ব গ্রহণ করতে হবে। সমগ্র জাতির চিন্তাকে আজ এক মুখী করতে হবে—এক চিন্তায় আজ অনুপ্রাণিত হতে হবে। জাতির

যদি সত্যিকারের প্রতিনিধি আমরা হই—সে দায়িত্ব সকলের আগে আমাদের। আমাদেরই আজ এগিয়ে যেতে হবে। অন্য সব কথা চেপে রেখে কেমন ক'রে আজ জাতিকে বাঁচাবো, সেই চিন্তা আমাদের সাথের সাথী করতে হবে। গ্রামে গ্রামে আমাদের বেরুতে হবে। জনসাধারণকে খাদ্য জোগাড় ক'রে দিতে হবে। বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্টকে বল্‌তে হবে—সকল কাজ স্থগিত রেখে মানুষ বাঁচবার কাজে সকলকে লাগতে হবে। যদি বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী এ কাজে অক্ষম হন—তাঁদের সরে পড়তে হবে।

মৃতকল্প জাতির কানে আজ জীবনের গান গাইতে হবে। মেরুদণ্ড সোজা করে নির্ভীকভাবে এই বিপদের দিনে জাতির উপর যে পরম এবং চরম আঘাত এসেছে সেই আঘাতের মধ্য দিয়ে জাতির মনটাকে জাগিয়ে দিতে হবে—যাতে কোরে জাতি বাঁচ্‌তে পারে, যাতে কোরে সে দিশেহারা হোয়ে না পড়ে।

আমার বন্ধু সিদ্দিকি সাহেব ইস্পাহানি সাহেবের পক্ষের উকীল হোয়ে মহাভারতের সমস্ত বড় বড় শ্লোক আউড়িয়ে বোল্লেন যে তাঁর মতন লোক নাকি পৃথিবীতেই জন্মায়নি,—একমাত্র তিনিই—আদি,—অকৃত্রিম শ্রীযুত। কিন্তু ঐ ইস্পাহানি সাহেবের খাঁটি পরিচয়ের পাচ্ছি কি ইতিহাস? তিনি ৪৲ টাকার চাল তিন টাকায় জোর কোরে গরীবের কাছ থেকে কেড়ে নিয়ে এসেছেন। এখানে ইস্পাহানি সাহেব হিন্দু কি মুসলমান সে প্রশ্ন নয়। কাব্‌লিওয়ালা কি মুসলমান নয়? কাবলিওয়ালা যখন বাংলার বুকের উপর লাঠি হাতে অজ্ঞ মুসলমানকে ঠকিয়ে নেয়, তখন কি সে মনে করে—আমার মোস্লেম ভাইদের আমি ঠকাবো না? কাব্‌লিওয়ালা—কাবলিওয়ালাই। ব্যবসাদারেরা ব্যবসাদার। ইস্পাহানিও ব্যবসাদার। সে ব্যবসা ছাড়া আর কিছু বোঝে না। সে চায় টাকা। সেখানে হিন্দু নাই, মুসলমান নাই, ধর্ম্ম নাই, জাতি নাই; সে চায়—নিজের আত্ম-স্বার্থ এবং সেই স্বার্থেরই পুষ্টিসাধন। স্বার্থ পুষ্টি ছাড়া সেখানে আর কোনো কথা নেই। মরণের মুখে দাঁড়িয়ে—আমি হিন্দু, আমি মুসলমান, আমি অমুক, আমি তমুক এ প্রশ্ন ওঠে না। মোরতে চোলেছে সকলেই। গুলির মুখে যখন মোরবো—সে গুলি হিন্দু ও মান্‌বে না, মুসলমানও মান্‌বে না। যখন লাল টাট্‌কা তাজা রক্ত তোমার আমার বুক থেকে ঝোরে পোড়বে,—সে রক্তের গায়ে লেখা থাকবে না যে তুমি মুসলমান,—আমি হিন্দু। মুসলমানের রক্ত যেমন গাঢ় লাল রক্ত—হিন্দুর রক্তও তেম্নি গাঢ়, লাল, উষ্ণ। ক্ষুধার আগুনে যখন হিন্দু মুসলমানের পেট দাউ দাউ কোরে জ্বলে ওঠে—তখন হিন্দুর জ্বালা যেমন গভীর মর্ম্মান্তদ হোয়ে তার বুকের শেষ অস্থিমজ্জা পর্য্যন্ত খুঁড়ে খায়, তার কান্না যেমন আকাশ বাতাসকে বিদীর্ণ কোরে দেয়, মুসলমানের বুকেও সে জ্বালা তেম্নি কোরেই জ্বলে ওঠে, তার কান্না ঠিক একইভাবে আকাশ বাতাসকে বিদীর্ণ করে। কাজেই আজকের প্রশ্ন এ নয়—কে হিন্দু, কে মুসলমান। আজকের প্রশ্ন হোচ্চে বাংলার প্রশ্ন, বাঙ্গালীর প্রশ্ন। আজকের প্রশ্ন—বাংলার শিশু, নারী, বৃদ্ধ, যুবা, সমগ্র জাতির প্রশ্ন। আজকের প্রশ্ন বিরোধীতার প্রশ্ন নয়। আজকে সমগ্র জাতির সমবেত ইচ্ছা এক সঙ্গে মিলিত হোয়ে এক সুরে ধ্বনিত হোয়ে উঠুক—বাংলাকে বাঙ্গালী আমরা যেন বাঁচাতে পারি,—যেন ভবিষ্যৎ জাতি আমাদের শিরে আশীর্ব্বাদের পুষ্পমাল্য না দিলেও অন্ততঃ অভিশাপ না দিয়ে এইটুকু বোল্‌তে পারে—আমাদের অযোগ্য পূর্ব্বপুরুষেরা আমাদের স্বাধীনতা দিয়ে যেতে পারেনি, কিন্তু বাঁচিয়ে রেখেছিল।

Maulana Md. MANIRUZZAMAN ISLAMABADI: নরেনবাবুর প্রস্তাব সমর্থনকল্পে আমি দুই একটা কথা বোল্‌বো। আমাদের ডিষ্ট্রীক্টের মধ্যে অর্থাৎ চট্টগ্রাম জেলার

বা population সে অনুপাতে সেখানে শস্য উৎপন্ন হয় [না। চট্টগ্রাম জেলাবাসীদের ধান, চাল চিরকাল ব্রহ্ম দেশ ও আকিয়াব হোতে আনা হোতো। ব্রহ্ম দেশের আমদানি বন্ধ হোয়ে গেছে। যে সমস্ত চাউল ব্যবসায়ীরা যা কিছু আমদানি কোরেছিলেন সে সমস্তই গভর্ণমেণ্ট control কোরে দিয়েছেন। তদ্ভিন্ন যে সকল বড় বড় কৃষকদের গোলায় ধান সঞ্চিত ছিল, সেগুলিও তাঁরাই সিলমোহর করে' রেখে দিয়েছেন। এ বৎসর আউশ ধান হয় নাই। তদ্দরুণ লোকের বিপদ চরমে উঠেছে। শস্যগুলি control করা হোয়েছে বোলে যে কোন ব্যবসায়ী বেচাকেনা কোরতে পারে না। Control করার পর টাউনের মধ্যে কয়েকটী দোকান নির্দ্দিষ্ট কোরে দেওয়া হয়েছে, কিন্তু তারা হাজার হাজার গ্রাহকের অভাব মিটাতে পারে না। এই অবস্থা বাংলা দেশের প্রায় সর্ব্বত্র। এর প্রতিকারের উপায় হ'চ্ছে price control কোরে রাখতে হবে, কিন্তু প্রদেশের বাইরে যাতে খাদ্যদ্রব্য চালান কেউ না দিতে পারে তার একটা কঠোর ব্যবস্থা কোরতে হবে। যদি বাংলা দেশের বাইরে বাংলার শস্য না যেতে পারে তাহোলে শস্যের মূল্য কোমে যাবে; অন্ততঃ উচিৎ মূল্যে লোকেরা শস্য পেয়ে জীবনধারণের ব্যবস্থা করতে' পারবে। আর control যদি তুলে দেওয়া যায় এবং ব্যবসায়ীরা স্বাধীনভাবে, আমদানি-রপ্তানি যদি করতে পারে তাহোলে খাদ্যদ্রব্যের আর এত অভাব হবে না, এবং দুর্ম্মূল্য ও থাকবে না।

আমার পূর্ব্ববর্ত্তী বক্তা বোলেছেন যে একই জেলার কোন জায়গায় চালের মণ প্রতি ৫৲ টাকা মূল্য, কোন জায়গায় বা ৭৲ টাকা মূল্য আবার কোন জায়গায় বা পাওয়াই যায় না, তার কারণ, আমদানি-রপ্তানি ঠিকমত হোচ্ছে না। আমি এই প্রস্তাব সমর্থন কোরছি, আমার বক্তব্য এই—খাদ্যদ্রব্যের control উঠে যাক, price control থাক।

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the resolution moved by my honourable friend Mr. Narendra Nath Das Gupta. I shall be very brief in my speech and I shall only make a few demands by way of suggestions as to the solution of the food problem which is facing us very distressfully today. Sir, my first demand is, and I hope I voice the demand of the whole province, that no rice should be exported from the boundaries of this province. This is the demand as has just been referred to by my honourable friend, the Maulana Sahib. My second demand is that the Government rice, i.e., the rice which has been purchased by Government from the surplus districts should be distributed to deficit districts according to their needs and requirements. My third demand is that permits should be withdrawn in the case of local traders within a district but permits should be enforced in cases of people who go to the districts from outside and purchase rice for exports from Bengal to other places. My fourth demand is that the maximum price should be fixed for rice in the whole of Bengal. My reasons for this last demand are very simple. The people of this province know that the price of coarse and medium rice has been fixed but the price of fine rice has not been controlled. The result has been that even the coarse rice is being sold under the name of "fine rice." That has resulted in the abnormal rise in prices specially in Calcutta. Sir, instances you will find many where some traders having got special permits from Government have purchased rice in mufassal districts and have brought down that rice to Calcutta, and they are selling that rice including

coarse and medium rice at any and very high price under the name of fine rice. Sir, such complaints are numerous but there is no remedy. We feel that some step should be taken immediately to stop that evil and that step is the fixation of maximum price of rice. The maximum price should be fixed for the sale of rice not only for the present but also for the future. Unless the price is fixed for the next crop, I am afraid, the price will rise higher and higher during the next season. I am sure that my friends in this House will agree with me that unless the maximum price of the next crop is controlled, the price of rice in the next season will rise abnormally high.

Sir, I do not want to take further time. I would rather sit down with the expectation that the Hon'ble Minister in charge will take a serious note of the demands I have made and which are the demands of the people of the province and will comply with the same.

Dr. GOBINDA CHANDRA BHOWMIK: আমাদের মেদিনীপুর জেলায় লোকের খাওয়ার উপযুক্ত চালের অভাবে সম্প্রতি যে ঘটনাটা ঘটেছে, সে সম্বন্ধে আমি কিছু বোল্‌তে চাই। মেদিনীপুর জেলার জিলপুর গ্রামের যে ঘটনার কথা খবরের কাগজেও বেরিয়েছে। ঘটনাটা ঘটে চালের চালান সম্পর্কিত ব্যাপার নিয়ে। সেখানকার একজন ধনী যথেষ্ট পরিমাণ চাল কিনে বাইরে চালান দেবার জন্যে উদ্যত হ'লে দেশের লোকেরা বোল্লে "আমরা সব চাল কিনে নেবো, চাল আপনারা বাইরে চালান দিতে পারবেন না।" তবু সেই চাল নিয়ে যাবার চেষ্টা করা হয় এবং সেই নিয়ে যাবার ব্যবস্থাটাকে কার্য্যকরী করবার জন্যে পুলিশকে খবর দেওয়া হয়। ঘটনার দিন ৮টা ৯টার সময় সেখানে স্থানীয় লোকেরা জমা হোয়ে বলে "আমাদের চাল দাও, আমরা খেতে পাইনে" সেখানকার পুলিশ সাব-ইন্সপেক্টার বল্লে "হাঁ তোমাদের চাল দেবার ব্যবস্থা কোরছি," কিন্তু চালের ব্যবস্থার বদলে যখন তিনি নিয়ে এলেন armed force তখন জনতা পুলিশের বিরুদ্ধে উঠলো ক্ষেপে, আর সঙ্গে সঙ্গে চোললো গুলি। যে সমস্ত লোক মোরেছে তার মধ্যে একজন লোক দু দিন, আর একজন তিন দিন ধোরে খায় নি। খাবে কি কোরে? ৮৲ টাকা মণ চাল কেন্‌বার তাদের সামর্থ্য কোথায়? আজকে সেখানকার চাল যদি বাইরে না পাঠানো হোতো তা হোলে তাদের এ দুর্দ্দশা হোতো না। আমাদের জেলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট যে step নিয়েছিলেন চাল যাতে বাইরে না যায় সেই step নেওয়াটা বন্ধ করা হোয়েছে, এবং আমরা জান্‌তে পেরেছি যে Bengal Government এর সার্কুলার গিয়েছে যে যারা চাল নিতে বাধা দেবে তাদের বিরুদ্ধে step নেওয়া হবে। আমরা দেখে হতবুদ্ধি হোয়ে গেছি যে মেদিনীপুর চালের জন্য চিরপ্রসিদ্ধ সেখানেই আজ ৮।৯ টাকা চালের মণ। যেখানে 60 p.c. agricultural labour, যাদের মজুরি না কোরলে পেট ভরে না, তারা ৩।৪ টাকা মজুরিতে খেটে কি কোরে ৯৲ টাকা মণের চাল কিন্‌বে। এই যে দারুণ খাদ্য সমস্যাটা দেখা দিয়েছে আমরা মিনিষ্টারদের পার্টি এ সম্বন্ধে কি কোরেছি? পুলিশের সেখানে যে গুলি চোলেছে এই রকম আরো অনেক জায়গায় চোলবে। আশ্বিন এবং কার্ত্তিক এই দুটি মাস যতদিন পর্য্যন্ত না অগ্রহায়ণ মাসে নতুন চাল পাওয়ার সম্ভাবনা হয় লোকেদের খাওয়ার ব্যবস্থা কোরতে হবে। কাজেই আমি বোলতে চাই গভর্ণমেণ্ট যেন চালের সম্বন্ধে সজাগ ও সতর্ক থাকেন, নৈলে, আজকে একটা জেলায় লোক মোরেছে কাল অনেকগুলি জেলাতেই মোরবে। আজকে যত লোক মোরছে কাল তার অনেক বেশী

গরীব লোক মারবে। এই সমস্যার যদি আশু সমাধান না হয় তাহলে দেশের দুর্ভাগ্যের ও দুর্দশার আর অন্ত থাকবে না। এই যে সব ঘটনা এগুলি political disturbance নয় এর পিছনে economic question রয়েছে, পেটের দায়ে লোক ভেলে যাচ্ছে, গুলি খেয়ে মারছে, আমরা চাই এই মর্ম্মান্তিক ইতিহাস বাংলা দেশে আর যেন না ঘটে।

Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a few observations on the resolution before the House. I shall be failing in my duty if I do not present the condition of the people in my constituency incidentally. The outturn in *aus* paddy this year has been four, five or six annas, and in no case more than six annas. As a result, the people are in want of food. To add to this the price of rice has risen very high; it is selling at Rs. 11 per maund. I think, in every household there will be shortage of food for at least two months. There has, of course, been control about the price of rice, but the control has absolutely failed. I hear, as soon as the control was enforced, the sellers stopped selling and whatever stock they had, passed into black market and sold there at the previous price.

Then, Sir, as regards cloths the control of price has entirely failed. In our part of the country there are only one or two Marwari shops and they almost dictate prices. So it is necessary that there should be stricter control and efficient management in this department. Some friends on the opposite side said that the present movement is the result of economic distress. I do not go so far, but I must say that the present movement is likely to be helped by the economic crisis.

Sir, in the last session I sounded a note of warning that the food problem of the country should be tackled very carefully because we saw that Germany fell in the last War owing to shortage of food. When Burma fell the situation became very critical because crores of maunds of rice which used to be imported to Bengal from Burma in normal times was stopped. We hear from a member of the Chittagong district just now that district depended mostly on Burma rice. Now that rice is in enemy hands. If the Government do not make proper arrangements for supply of food without any further loss of time, I think Bengal will be made vulnerable for the enemy. The Japanese by supplying Bengal with Burma rice will win over the Bengalees to their side just as by supplying Indian wheat the other day to Persia the British Government were able to win over that country. So, I think, the Government should by all means try to regulate the price of foodstuffs and other commodities and see that the supply of these things is made available throughout the country. We are feeling for a long time that there is some bungling in the Department of Commerce. There has been mismanagement and inefficient handling necessarily in price control and permit system. We have come to know that even in the system of issuing permits bribery and jobbery are being resorted to. This should be ended by all means and an efficient administration should be introduced.

Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN: মাননীয় Deputy Speaker আজকে যে বিষয় নিয়ে discussion হচ্ছে price control সম্বন্ধে সে important জিনিষ। কিন্তু এটার discussionএর

সময় সমস্ত জিনিষের প্রতি লক্ষ্য রাখা দরকার এবং আমার মনে হয় প্রত্যেকেরই উচিৎ ছিল যে কি করে price control করা যায় তার ব্যবস্থা করা। শুধু বক্তৃতা নয়। আজকে দেখা যাচ্ছে যে চাল, বাংলাদেশে গম এবং রেঙ্গুন বর্মার চাল না আসার জন্য দাম দারুণ চড়ে গিয়েছে, এবং সে জন্য পূর্ব্বেকার যারা ministers তাঁদেরও অনেকটা দায়ীত্ব রয়েছে। তাঁরা যখন পাট বেঁধে দিয়েছেন তখন ওরা দশ আনা যদি না করতেন আট আনা থাকতো, তাহলে আমার মনে হয় সুবিধা হতো। পূর্ব্বেই সেটা সর্ব্বনাশ করেছেন। এখন আগে যাঁরা পাপ করেন, বাপ যদি পাপ করেন ছেলেও পাপ করে। গত বার যে পাপ করে গিয়েছেন সে বোঝা অনেক আমাদের বইতে হচ্ছে। আগে যাঁরা minister হয়েছেন তাঁরা মনে করেছিলেন যে এ রকম করে চালিয়ে সর্ব্বনাশ করে ওরা চলে যাবেন কারণ ওনাদের স্বার্থ অন্য ভাবে ছিল। তখন তাঁরা দেশের সম্বন্ধে চিন্তা করেন নি, নিজের চিন্তা করবার জন্যই এদেশের সর্ব্বনাশ হয়েছে। তাঁরা তখন চিন্তা করেছিলেন যে নিজেরা কি করে পেট ভোরে খাবো এবং নিজেদের সুবিধা হবে কি করে। যদি দেশের দিকে লক্ষ্য রেখে সব ব্যবস্থা করতেন তাহলে আজকে বাংলা দেশের অবস্থার হয়ত অনেক তফাৎ হোতো। অন্য দিকে আজকে ব্যাপার হয়েছে যে যুদ্ধের দরুণ এক দিক থেকে মাল অন্য দিকে চলে যেতে পারছে না; এ একটা বড় difficulty আর একটা difficulty হয়েছে যে India Government আমাদের দেশ থেকে চাল অন্য দিকে পাঠাবার জন্যও ব্যবস্থা করছেন। তার জন্যও সর্ব্বনাশ আমাদের দেশে হয়ে যাচ্ছে। কাযেই এদিকে প্রত্যেকের লক্ষ্য রাখা দরকার। এবং যে বড় বড় non-Bengali firm like Ispahani & Co. এই সব লোক যে লক্ষ লক্ষ মণ চালের contract পাচ্ছেন এবং পেয়ে বাংলার সর্ব্বনাশ যে করছেন বাংলার উপরে থেকে, বাঙ্গালী বলেই আজকে এই সব জিনিষ সহ্য করছি, যদি অন্য country হোতো এ রকম contractor দের করে যে ঘাড় ধরে বার করে দিত তা বলা যায় না। কিন্তু আপনারা যাঁরা তাঁদেরকে support করেন—তাদের পেটোয়া যারা রয়েছেন—তাদের সঙ্গে co-operate করছেন, বোধ হয় কিছু share পেতে পারেন, তাঁরা এই সর্ব্বনাশের মূলে রয়েছেন। কারণ যদি চাল এ রকমভাবে কেনা না যেতো, চালান না হোতো, যদি বাংলার চাল বাংলায় থাকতো, তাহলে আমার মনে হয় দুঃখ হোতো না। দ্বিতীয় কথা হচ্চে, অনেকে দোষ দিচ্ছেন controlling কে যে এটা এখন ঠিকভাবে চালানো হচ্ছে না। কিন্তু চালানো হবে কি করে। Order থাকে চুরি কোরো না জেল দেওয়া হবে। কিন্তু কেন তবু চুরি করে চোরে? চুরি বন্ধ হয় না। এই জন্য Government যদিও control করেছেন কিন্তু control করলে কি হবে? এই control এর মাঝখানে যে সব ব্যবসাদার রয়েছেন তাঁদের support করবার জন্য আবার এই মাঝখানে কতকগুলি তথাকথিত সৎ লোক আছেন তাঁরা support করেন বলেই সেই controlএর মাঝখান থেকে ও চুরি হয়ে মাল বেশী দামে বিক্রী হয় এবং এক জায়গা থেকে অন্য জায়গায় চালান হয়, কিম্বা লুকিয়ে নেওয়া হয় সেগুলি মিনিষ্টারদের চোখে পড়া সম্ভব নয়,—যদি দেশের মঙ্গলের জন্য প্রত্যেকেই চেষ্টা করেন, তাহোলে আমার মনে হয় এ বিষয়ে নিশ্চিন্ত হোতে পারা যায়।

Adjournment.

It being 11-30 a.m., the House was adjourned till 8-45 a.m. on Monday, the 21st September, 1942, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Monday, the 21st September, 1942, at 8-45 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 180 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Mode of address of Gazetted Officers.

*31. **Mr. TARAKNATH MUKERJEA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state what are the requisite qualifications of "Mistership" (Mr.) and "Esquireship" (Esq.) for persons in Government service?

(*b*) Do the Government recognise any distinction in the use of the prefixes "Mister" (Mr.), "Babu" and "Maulvi"?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will he be pleased to state what are the distinctions?

(*d*) Is it a fact—

(*i*) that the Provincial Service officers designated as "Maulvi" or "Babu" when promoted to act or officiate even for a short time in the Imperial Service are styled as "Mister" (Mr.); and

(*ii*) that they lose their "Mistership" (Mr.) as soon as they revert to the Provincial Service?

(*e*) If the answer to (*d*) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of—

(*i*) taking steps to abolish this distinction; and

(*ii*) observing uniformity in designation with regard to all Gazetted officers irrespective of caste, creed or colour?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) to (*c*) According to convention Indian officers are called "Mr." or "Esq."—

(*i*) when they are confirmed in listed posts;

(*ii*) if they are Indian Christians; and

(*iii*) if they can establish a personal claim to this form of address.

(*d*) At the request of the Bengal Civil Service Association it was decided in 1926 that officers of that service appointed to officiate in listed posts should not be addressed as "Mr." until confirmed.

(*e*) I should be glad to have a clear indication of the wishes of the officers concerned.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*a*)(*iii*) where it is stated that an officer is entitled to be addressed as Mr. or Esquire if he can establish a personal claim to that form of address, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how an officer is required to establish his claim?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I confess I do not see the mysteries of the difference between Mr. and Babu and Maulvi. I have not studied the question, and I am not in a position to answer.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what he means by "personal claim"?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: It may be that he is the son or son-in-law of some big man or something like that.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: With regard to answer (*a*)(*iii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the necessary requisites for establishing a personal claim for Mistership?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I have no personal claim myself, and I do not know what is required.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: You are addressed as "Mr."?

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: The other day your attention was drawn to this fact, that if any Hon'ble Minister gives an answer he must own it up, but unfortunately the present Ministry is in the habit of disowning its responsibility for the answers given. Even when Hon'ble Ministers are questioned about any answer, they are not prepared to explain what they mean by that answer. Here the simple question is answered that a man is entitled to be addressed as "Mr." if he can establish his personal claim. In reply to a supplementary question, what are the requisites for establishing that claim, he has given an answer and the House is entitled to demand an explanation from him. I hope, Sir, that you will see that he does not evade the responsibility——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You want to know what are the requisites for establishing such a claim?

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: The Hon'ble Minister says "I cannot say".

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I do not want to evade any responsibility. If the question is pressed, I shall make enquiries. What is the importance in it?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the reasons for this discrimination between officers of the Imperial Service and Provincial Service in the matter of address?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: As the honourable member knows, there are discriminations between members of the Provincial Service and the Imperial Service.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Why in the matter of address?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: That has been the convention. As I have said, if the House gives an indication, I am prepared to take up the matter.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of doing away with this invidious distinction between two grades of service—both of gazetted rank?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am not considering the desirability, but I am willing to take up this question if pressed.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why in the case of some Assembly members "Babu" and in the case of some others "Mr." are used? What are the reasons for this distinction?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a matter to be answered by me. The honourable member will get the answer from me later.

Communal ratio in A.R.P. services.

*32. **Khan Bahadur FAZLUL QADIR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Defence (A.R.P.) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to relax the *Ratio* Rules fixed for different communities in making appointments to the various services in A.R.P.?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

MINISTER in charge of the CIVIL DEFENCE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased t state the actual number of appointments that have been made in the variou services in A.R.P. in Calcutta?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I understand that this ver important question will be debated in the general discussion and also b means of a special motion. I have got a full statement ready, but at th present moment I am not prepared to go into details, because I have not go the papers before me.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister b pleased to state whether the Communal Ratio Rules were observed in th matter of recruitment to the A.R.P.?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The question is whether the Communal Ratio Rules were relaxed. I said "No". If they had not been observed, that is a different matter which we will discuss in the course of the debate that will arise.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Will the Hon'ble Chief Minister be pleased to say if it is a fact that as the Communal Ratio Rules have not been observed, he has appointed an Enquiry Committee from amongst the members of his party?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: As I have said, there are many matters to be discussed and to be disclosed in this connection, and I should be very much obliged to my friends if they withhold these questions till the time comes for discussion.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Are we to understand that this question will be held over till the discussion is over?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I cannot disclose all the information at present. I find from the agenda paper that this question is being taken up specifically by a special motion. When that motion is taken up, there will be discussion, and I will have to make a long statement, much longer than any I can make in answer to questions. I am only asking honourable members to consider whether it would not economise time if this question is not pressed at this moment and, if necessary, we can take up later on.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: In this connection may I request the Hon'ble the Chief Minister just to give us the exact figure of the communal ratio in this service?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has said that the question may be held over for the present.

Death of Abdur Rashid in Dacca Central Jail.

*33. **Maulvi MD. ABDUS SHAHEED:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether Abdur Rashid arrested in April last in connection with the Dacca communal riot in Raipura thana died in the Dacca Central Jail?

(*b*) If so, whether any *post mortem* examination was held before his funeral?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether his guardian was informed about the death before the funeral?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) and (*c*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors in the Intelligence Branch of the Police Department.

*34. **Mr. M. MOSLEM ALI MOLLAH:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Police) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number of (1) Sub-Inspectors and (2) Inspectors at present working in the Intelligence (Investigation) Branch of the Police Department;

(*b*) how many of them are (1) Muslims and (2) non-Muslims;

(*c*) the number of vacancies that occurred there; and

(*d*) the number of vacancies that were filled up by (1) Muslims and (2) non-Muslims since the Bengal (Services) Communal Ratio Rules came into operation?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (1) 29 and (2) 20.

(*b*) Government considers that it is not in the public interest to divulge the communal composition of the Branch.

(*c*) Seven Sub-Inspectors' posts fell vacant.

(*d*) Answer to (*b*) may be seen.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it was with a view to conceal the injustices that were done to the Muslims that he replied that it was not in the public interest to divulge the communal ratio?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The honourable member may ask his leader and he will tell him.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Why does the Hon'ble Minister consider that it is not in the public interest to divulge the communal composition of this branch of the Police Department?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The Leader of the Muslim League Group will be able to tell that to the honourable member.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Sir, may I know whether the communal ratio is maintained? I do not want to know the number.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The communal ratio is maintained as far as possible.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister, being a member of a particular community and also the protector of the interests of that community, say whether the ratio of his own community is maintained?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: This Government is maintaining the policy pursued by the previous Government, and there has been no change.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Sir, I want to know whether the Hon'ble Minister is satisfied with the percentage of communal ratio in this department?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am not satisfied with the observance of communal ratio in any department.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the percentage of Muslims in that service, if not the number?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Attempts are made in accordance with the policy laid down and pursued by the previous Government to maintain the percentage as far as possible There has been no shortage in the course of this Government.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: My point is, what is the percentage of Muslims in this particular service?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The answer is, in some cases the percentage is maintained and in some cases the percentage is not maintained in accordance with the principles laid down by the previous Government.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: The Hon'ble Minister has said that in some cases the Communal Ratio Rules are observed and in some cases they are not. Will the Hon'ble Minister please state what is actually the position so far as the Intelligence Branch of the Police Department is concerned?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I have no contradiction to make to what I have already said.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: I ask for your protection, Sir, if the Hon'ble Minister wants to evade giving replies in this fashion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has already said that the communal ratio is being maintained as far as possible.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: What Mr. Fazlur Rahman has said is——

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: What has Mr. Shahabuddin to do with that?

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, I am just drawing your particular attention to——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You cannot do that. What I can allow you to do is to put a supplementary question.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: All right, Sir. Will the Hon'ble Minister please explain with regard to this particular service whether the communal ratio is being maintained or not? I do not want to find out whether in some cases it is being maintained I want a definite answer.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I have given my answer, and I have nothing further to add.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: With reference to answer (*c*), regarding appointment to seven posts of Sub-Inspector, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Communal Ratio Rules were observed when filling up those posts?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I want notice.

Government Relief measures in Birbhum.

***35. Dr. SARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state the amount that was spent under the following heads during the years 1939-40 and 1940-41 in the district of Birbhum:—

(*i*) (1) Test Relief,
(2) Gratuitous relief,
(3) Improvement of Irrigation tanks,
(4) Fodder purchase,
(5) Agricultural loan, and
(6) Water supply; and

(*ii*) the number of tanks thus improved during the said period?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of spending more money for improvement of irrigation tanks and saving the district from scarcity?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee): (*a*)—

	Head.	1939-40. Rs.	1940-41. Rs.	
(*i*)	(1) Test relief ..	Nil	30,627	
	(2) Gratuitous relief ..	Nil	26,484	
	(3) Improvement of irrigation tanks.	Nil	84,130	
	(4) Fodder purchase ..	Nil	24,872	(advanced as agricultural loan).
	(5) Agricultural loan ..	14,929	1,905	
	(6) Water-supply ..	22,452	18,381	
(*ii*)	.. .. ..	Nil	285	tanks.

(*b*) During the current year a sum of Rs.36,176 has already been spent and a further sum of Rs.5,500 will be spent. More tanks are proposed to be taken up in the year 1942-43 out of the lump provision of Rs.1,00,000 made in the Provincial budget for the next year.

Inspection of some cyclone-affected areas by the Collector, Noakhali.

***36. Mr. M. FARHAD REZA CHOWDHURY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the Collector of Noakhali visited any of the villages in police-stations Raipur, Luxmipur and Ramgong which were affected by the cyclone that passed over that area on the 25th and 26th of May, 1941; and

(*ii*) whether he visited the Island of Char Alexandra after the cyclone?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the date when he visited the place?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: (*a*) (*i*) Yes. He visited most of these villages affected.

(*ii*) No. The Khas Mahal Officer was sent to this Char to make enquiries.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the villages visited by the Collector and the dates of such visits?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I am afraid the information is not here, but if the honourable member so desires, he will be good enough to see me, and I will certainly furnish him with the information.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of the areas were visited by the Hon'ble Minister himself and how many were visited by the officers of Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: As for myself, I visited certain areas of Noakhali, with my Revenue Secretary, but my knowledge of geography is very limited. About the officers the information is not here with me, but that information will be made available to the honourable member if he so desires.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: On what date did the Khas Mahal Officer visit the *char* area?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: The information is not here, but the information will be made available to the honourable member if he so desires.

Filling up of lower grade posts in the High Court, Appellate Side.

***37. Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA:** (*a*) With reference to the reply given to starred question No. 108 on the 4th September, 1941, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether the posts have been since filled in the manner as contemplated in the reply?

(*b*) If so, when?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state names and qualifications of the persons so appointed?

(*d*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what are the reasons therefor;

(*ii*) what actions do the Government propose to take to implement the course of action as outlined in the reply; and

(*iii*) when?

MINISTER in charge of the JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee): By the courtesy of the Hon'ble Chief Justice I am able to reply as follows:—

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) On receipt of nominations from the Public Service Commission, one in November, 1941, and five in February, 1942.

(c) Maulvi Molla Ershad Ali, B.A.
Maulvi Mohammad Reza Hossain, B.A.
Maulvi Mohammad Wali Ahmad, I.SC.
Maulvi Abdul Hafiz, B.A.
Maulvi Abu Muhammad Foyzur Rahman, I.A.
Maulvi Majed Ali Khondkar, B.A.

(d) Does not arise.

Non-agricultural Tenancy Bill.

*38. **Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether Government intend to introduce any Non-agricultural Tenancy Bill of a permanent character in this session?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

(c) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when do the Government intend to publish the Bill in the *Calcutta Gazette*?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: (a) No.

(b) Diverse interests are involved and the present Government is going through the matter carefully. Meanwhile the Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1940, has been extended for a further period of one year by Act III of 1942.

(c) Does not arise.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the period of operation of this Act III of 1942 expires?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I think, 31st March, 1943. I am speaking off-hand from memory. That is my impression.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: In view of the fact that a Committee was appointed to go into the question, that the Committee has reported on all the matters concerned therein, and that the late Government also published a Bill of a permanent character, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why in spite of all these facts this Government is delaying the publication of this Bill in the Gazette and taking up in this Session or at least in the November Session, if there be any?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I am not speaking about the November Session. I am confining my attention to

this Session—a short Session. I agree that a draft Bill was gazetted by the past Government on the 5th September, 1941. I am myself going through the draft Bill and I have another draft Bill. There will be no unreasonable delay by this Government in getting the Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill through the Legislature when we find time.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the leading Congressmen and the leading Muslim Leaguers stand in the way of placing this Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: The question is vague, and I cannot give any answer.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether we can expect that this Bill may be gazetted during the month of September or at least in the month of October?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I am afraid I cannot give the honourable member that definite assurance.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when at the latest the Bill can be expected to be published in the Gazette for the purpose of introduction?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: As at present advised I should say before the expiry of the period of one year of the Act III of 1942.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what other interests apart from the landlords and tenants are involved in the placing of the Bill?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I have been advised that there are other interests apart from the interests of landlords and tenants. But the expression "landlords and tenants," as my honourable friend knows, is very well capable of indefinite expansion.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: It is stated that the present Government are going through the matter carefully. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether they are doing it by means of an expert officer or by means of a Committee?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Not through a Committee yet. As to experts, that expression again is capable of indefinite expansion. All our officers are supposed to be experts.

Rai Sahib ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the order extended will end?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I gave the answer before.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the people in non-agricultural areas are very much anxious about this Bill and they are wanting expedition in the passage of this Bill?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: So am I.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government would consider the desirability of introducing a permanent legislation before the expiry of the term of this temporary Bill?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: My honourable friend probably could not hear me. I said so.

Extension of the life of the Calcutta Corporation and postponement of elections to local bodies.

***41. Mr. M. FARHAD REZA CHOWDHURY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the term of the life of the Corporation of Calcutta has been extended for a period of one year?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of postponing future elections to all other local bodies in Bengal for a period of one year?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The reasons are stated in the Government notification, a copy of which is laid on the Library Table.

(*c*) The matter is under consideration.

Bengal Village Self-Government Amendment Bill.

***42. Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether Government called any meeting of the Select Committee of the Bengal Village Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, sponsored by the questioner, within the time fixed by the Assembly during the last session on the motion of the Hon'ble Minister?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

(*c*) Do the Government contemplate to keep the Bill pending by appropriate motions?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: (*a*) No.

(*b*) Owing to preoccupation with various urgent matters arising out of the prevailing emergency, it was not possible to convene the meetings of the Committee during the period.

(*c*) Yes. The meetings will begin on the 22nd September and proceed from day to day.

I would like to add these words:—"if the Assembly is pleased to extend the time for submission of the report" I intend to move that to-day.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: In answer (*c*) the Hon'ble Minister says that the meetings of the Select Committee will begin on the 22nd September Is he aware that no notice has been received by the members even now?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I might inform my honourable friend that originally I had passed orders to call the meeting of the Select Committee on the 22nd September in the view that the Assembly sittings would close on that day as originally intended But having regard to the fact that the Assembly is continuing its Session, I am doubtful whether 22nd September will be available for holding the meeting of the Select Committee. If not suitable to members, I may have to shift the date further.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will it be during this Session or after the Session?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: My attempt will be to make a beginning this Session

(When question No. *43 was called out, the Hon'ble the Chief Minister was not present in the chamber.)

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: May I draw your attention to the fact that during question hour when Ministers have got to answer questions, they should not leave the chamber. We feel very strongly on this point. It is the right of the members to have the questions answered, and the Ministers should not be so irresponsible as to wander away. They are showing disrespect both to the House and to yourself.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not a question of disrespect. It may be a question of necessity for which he has gone out. I will ask him when he comes back.

(At this stage the Hon'ble Chief Minister entered the chamber and the question was taken up.)

The Public Vehicles Department of Calcutta Police.

*43. **Maulvi AZHAR ALI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Public Vehicles Department attached to the Calcutta Police is going to be separated very soon?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of Upper Division posts that are likely to be created in that department; and

(*ii*) the number of such posts to be filled up by—

(1) Muslims,
(2) Hindus, and
(3) Scheduled Castes?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Execution of sale-deeds in Birbhum.

19. **Dr. SARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education (Registration) Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing for the years 1939, 1940 and 1941, separately, the number of sale-deeds executed in the different offices of registration in the district of Birbhum?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. Abdul Karim): A statement furnishing the required figures is laid on the Table.

Statement referred to in reply to unstarred question No. 19.

Office.	1939.	1940.	1941.
Suri (Sadar)	3,552	3,728	4,605
Dubrajpur	2,859	2,772	3,227
Bolpur	3,045	2,780	2,546
Labpur	2,346	2,271	2,904
Rampurhat	3,545	3,754	4,135
Nalhati	3,740	4,061	4,322
Total ..	19,087	19,366	21,739

The above figures are of sales and exchanges এওয়াজ বদল which is also sale price not being paid in cash. No separate figures of sale exclusively are maintained. The figure under exchange is a negligible fraction of the total figures.

Alleged insulting behaviour to an Engineer of Messrs. Burn & Co.

20. **Mr. DHANANJOY ROY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware that on 20th February last (1942), one Mr. H. N. Mookerjee, Engineer, Burn & Co., was insulted and dragged down and his cloth was torn and suitcase was thrown off from a first class compartment by the Superintendent, Presidency General Hospital, when Mr. Mookerjee entered into the train (14-Down Express) at Burdwan?

(*b*) If so, what steps have been taken in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed): The matter was taken to the Court of law by Mr. H. N. Mookerjee but the case was ultimately compromised and the complaint withdrawn. In the circumstances, it is hoped, the honourable member will not insist on obtaining details of the occurrence.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government is satisfied that the conduct of the Superintendent, Presidency General Hospital, is reprehensible and unworthy of a Government servant of his position?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: No complaint has so far been made to the Government. If any complaint is made, Government will consider it.

Appointment of Assistant Engineers.

21. **Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing for the years 1941 and 1942 (7th September) the number of (1) Muslims and (2) non-Muslims appointed as Assistant Engineers in the following branches, namely,—

(1) Buildings,

(2) Communications, and

(3) Irrigation?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in how many of the posts that were reserved for the Muslims, non-Muslims have been appointed?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) A statement is laid on the Table.

(*b*) Seven temporary posts in the Communications and Buildings Branch were due to be filled by Muslims but owing to the non-availability of Muslims non-Muslims were appointed to the posts.

The answer is nil so far as the Irrigation Branch is concerned.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (a) of unstarred question No. 21.

	1941.		1942 (up to 7th September, 1942).	
	Muslim.	Non-Muslim.	Muslim.	Non-Muslim.
Number of Assistant Engineers appointed in the Communications and Building Branch—				
Permanent	1	Nil	1	1
Temporary	1	9	Nil	5
Number of Assistant Engineers appointed in the Irrigation Branch—				
Permanent	3	4	1	Nil
Temporary	2	2	Nil	Nil

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there were any Muslim candidates for these posts?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: You will find in the answer that owing to the non-availability of Muslims, non-Muslims were appointed to the posts.

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there were no Muslim candidates at all?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I can tell you that I have tried to explore all avenues, but I have not been able to procure suitable Muslim candidates. As regards this particular question, I will give you the answer later on.

Mr. ADBULLA-AL MAHMOOD: The question may be held over.

(The supplementaries to the question were held over.)

Prohibition regarding holding of political meeting in the premises of Government-aided educational institution.

22. Mr. A. M. ABDUL HAMID: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether recently any circular has been issued by the Director of Public Instruction prohibiting holding of any political meeting in the premises of any educational institution receiving grant-in-aid from Government?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any such meeting was held in the premises of the Pabna Edward College on the 9th February, 1942?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) On the 9th February, 1942, the Hon'ble Minister for Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness and the Hon'ble Minister for Communications and Works visited the town of Pabna. At the request of the Reception Committee, the Principal placed the College grounds at the disposal of the committee for the presentation of addresses of welcome to the Ministers.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for allowing the educational institution premises to be used by the Ministers for political purposes and at the same time denying the use by other political parties?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: As a matter of fact, the premises are controlled by the college authorities, and at the request of the Reception Committee the Principal placed the college premises at the disposal of the Committee for the presentation of addresses of welcome to the Ministers.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Was the direction in the circular of the Director of Public Instruction meant specially to accommodate the Ministers?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: The action of the Principal does not militate against the spirit of the Director of Public Instruction's circular which is intended primarily to prevent the students and staff of the college from holding political meetings inside the premises. The case is entirely different so far as the Ministers are concerned who were there only to receive addresses and give replies. It cannot be said that it was a political meeting in the sense in which the Director of Public Instruction's circular was issued.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: With reference to the circular referred to in answer (a), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to let us have the contents of the circular?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: It will be laid on the table if you want to see it.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: We want to hear it now

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: The circular is not with me. I want notice.

Restraint order on Babu Harchandra Sarkar of Kaliganj, Rangpur.

24. Kazi EMDADUL HAQUE: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware—

(*i*) that Babu Harchandra Sarkar of Doljor, police-station Kaliganj, district Rangpur, has been served with an order under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules;

(*ii*) that he has been directed to attend the police-station Kaliganj which is fourteen miles from his house; and

(*iii*) that he has submitted a representation to the District Magistrate, Rangpur, for permitting him to attend the police-station at Lalmonirhat which is three miles from his house instead of the police-station Kaliganj?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*iii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (*i*) to (*iii*) Yes.

(*b*) He has been allowed to report himself at Kaliganj police-station once every fortnight instead of once a week.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*a*)(*iii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government will consider the desirability of asking the District Magistrate to permit Babu Harchandra Sarkar to report himself to Lalmonirhat which is only three miles away from his house instead of Kaliganj which is 14 miles away?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I will see if this can be done.

Mr. ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the notice served on Babu Harchandra Sarkar has been withdrawn or not?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I cannot say that at the present moment.

Bengal Village Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1939.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, I beg to move that the time for submission of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bengal Village Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1939, by Maulvi Muhammad Israil be extended to the 31st October, 1942.

There being no objection, the motion was agreed to.

Point of Privilege.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: Sir, I want to make a reference to the arrest of one of the M. L. As. while the Session is going on. It is a question of privilege also. We are desired by His Excellency to attend the Session and, accordingly, summons were issued by the Secretary for the attendance of members of this House. Now after being summoned to attend the Session, members are being arrested without any reference to the Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, you are the custodian of this House, and I think it is the duty of the Home Department to refer the matter to you, either before or just after the arrest. In Parliament if any particular member is arrested while the Session is going on, the procedure is that the matter should be referred to the Speaker, though members of Parliament are not immune from criminal arrest. But we are not members of Parliament. This is not a criminal arrest, this is only a preventive arrest. No name has appeared in the press. It has only appeared that one of the M. L. As. has been arrested. I think at least families of 40 to 50 members are in anxiety in respect of this arrest. They are thinking as to who has been arrested—X or Y. Sir, I want to know the name of the member arrested.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can tell you one thing, that there is no such privilege now with regard to the detention, arrest and all these things. There is one recommendation of the Privilege Committee and the House has not yet come to any decision in the matter. Another Privilege Bill is still pending for the decision of the House. As regards the name of that particular M. L. A. I will request the Home Department to ascertain the name, and I will give you the name later on.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, may I know in this connection when the recommendations of the Privilege Committee are going to be placed before the House?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have a mind to place them before the House this Session. If time permits, on a non-official day, I will place the recommendations before the House.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I submit that the matter should be taken up this Session, and I think that this is a matter which Government should accommodate on one of their official business days.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will try to take that matter up this Session.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, I would like to know whether Government communicated to you the name of the M. L. A. who has been arrested. It is a convention of this House that when a member of this House is arrested, his name is communicated to the Speaker: Has it been done this time?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no such convention that the name should be communicated to the Speaker.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir Azizul Haque always told us that the name was communicated to him.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As I have already said, I will just enquire into the matter and give you the name.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, I would like to draw your attention to these few words. It ought to be our privilege, and at least this courtesy ought to be shown to this House, that when a member of this House is arrested, his name should be communicated to the House through you. It is a claim on the Government of this House, and it is a question of privilege that whenever a member of this House is arrested, it is simply courtesy that the name should be communicated to the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already told you that the recommendation of the Privilege Committee will come up before the House later in the Session.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: You were pleased to say that you would allow discussions on the privileges of this House on a non-official day. Could we not beg of you to impress upon this irresponsible Government to allot a special day for the discussion of this right because privilege of the House so far as we are concerned is more official than any Government Bill is of the type that is being brought forward in this House? Therefore I appeal to you to see that our rights and privileges are placed as No. 1 and the rest as coming afterwards.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I may tell you that I am in correspondence with the Home Department. I am trying to take up this matter on a non-official day. I shall also try and have a talk with the Leader of the Opposition with a view to taking up this matter this Session.

Short-notice Question.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: May I draw your attention to a communication that I received from the Assembly Department in connection with a short-notice question of which I gave notice? That communication is——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is that about?

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Regarding the arrest of Mr. Sasankha Sekhar Sanyal and Mr. Satya Priya Banerjee.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, the matter concerning the arrest of one member could not be delayed, because it is of extreme importance. You have power to bring members to attend the Session. If necessary, you should consider if the matter could not be dealt with before the conclusion of this Session.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall try.

Debate on the Hon'ble the Chief Minister's Statement.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I am certain that the honourable members of this House have perused the long and invaluable statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister printed in the Bengal Government Press, on this occasion with some show of adequate reason. Those who expected to find in the statement materials regarding the beneficent activities of this Ministry since the Budget Session must have been grievously disappointed. When we last met, Sir, the Ministers told us that they had just taken office and hence they were not able to show any achievement. From the time of their assumption of office up till now ten months have passed, and the statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister is an equal blank. What is his attitude? "We have done nothing except get our pay and our emoluments. Don't you know that there is a war on, and when there is a war on what on earth can we do? Anything that we can do will be considered controversial politics." On the floor of the House they assured us solemnly that immediately after the Budget Session they would convene a meeting of the Select Committee on the Secondary Education Bill. Long after, in the month of July they convened such a meeting only for three days and then postponed it never to convene it at all. They called a meeting of Party Leaders to consider the recommendations of the Land Revenue Commission, but it never met and was adjourned *sine die*. They closed their eyes to necessary reforms in the Calcutta Corporation because those matters would be considered controversial. In fact, everything is controversial unless it can damage the Muslim cause. That is not controversial, and there is a singular unanimity in this respect in the Mahasabha *cum* Forward Bloc and the Progressive Muslim Group. Hence, although it will kill primary education and the district school boards where the Muslims have got a predominant voice, the Ministers have introduced the Rural Primary Education (Amendment) Bill which makes us realise more than anything else how the Chief Minister and his party have sold themselves to the Hindu Mahasabha—"for are we not out to crush the Muslims," says the Chief Minister, "and by God, we will do it!" That is the attitude which has been taken by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. Look through the whole statement. Do you find in it a word of apology regarding the Secondary Education Bill? Do you find in it any reference to jute upon which the prosperity and the entire rural economy of the cultivator depends? This Government have not done anything and have not moved their little finger——.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry to interrupt you. Does that argument arise out of the Chief Minister's statement?

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Yes. The Government have not moved their little finger, although the peasantry is on the verge of collapse. When we fixed 10 annas Japan was not at war. It was feared that the entry of Japan into the war might create a different situation. The military appreciation was that Japan would be effaced from the Pacific Ocean. In any event the passage of jute would not be decreased or hindered. Still we had our doubts. The mill-owners and the Government of India assured us that they would step into the breach, that they would come to the rescue of the cultivators if the prices fell and if there was no buyer. Sir, our worst fears have been realised. On the floor of this House I remember myself and an expert like Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi—pressing on this Ministry the necessity of curtailing sowings. The Hon'ble Minister for Commerce, the representative, Sir, of Khudai Bulls on the floor of this House, states that he called upon the public to sow not less than 8 annas. He has the effrontery to come to the House when the prices are collapsing and say that he called upon the cultivator never to sow less than 8 annas although about 4 or 5 annas would have been the maximum that the cultivators should have been allowed to sow. They have not moved their smallest finger to rectify this grave error. It is more than probable that if the mill authorities had been approached they would have done something to relieve the situation. We have pointed out the great danger to the Province owing to the inactivity and callousness of Government. The Muslim League met and passed resolutions on the subject. We have submitted resolutions and special motions and addresses to His Excellency the Governor on the Jute Policy. The great Progressive Party, which meets from time to time to advise the Ministry or to endorse its action, that Progressive Party that has taken dishonestly, so it is characterised in certain quarters, money from the public revenues for its travelling expenses, that Progressive Party which met on different occasions after the Muslim League had pointed out the deficiencies of the Government in respect of its evacuation and denial policy, that Progressive Party has now one day ago met to consider what policy the Government should adopt on the question of jute and has passed a resolution which I should like the honourable members of the European group, who are supporting this Ministry and, more than that, priding themselves on being a very important component part of the Progressive Party although keeping out of it—like Mr. Gandhi, who is not even a 4-anna member of the Congress—to note and support, namely, that the price of low bottom jute should be Rs. 8 and, that the minimum price for jute should be fixed by legislation. I wonder if the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed now recalls that at one time he and his party toured all over the province demanding that the minimum price of jute should be fixed. But may I ask why has not the Government taken any such action, if not by legislation, at least by an Ordinance. Government would then have had an opportunity of ascertaining the views of the House including that of its European supporters on such a demand? Sir, such a subject of importance as the

educational institutions have been totally ignored, in the statement? That is a matter which concerns us most intimately. But in the statement there is not a word regarding it nor is there any survey of the economic situation in the country, nor any indication as to how the Government propose to deal with those several parts of Bengal where the *aus* crop has failed due to drought. Government and Ministers appear to be blissfully unconscious about the distress that is looming on the horizon of the province, but not a word is said how the Government propose to deal with the situation. The Cabinet seem to think that they justify themselves fully if they remain inactive and spend their time in intrigue, in patronage, in jobbery, in self-advertisement, in spot lights, and in devising ways and means to damage the cause of the Muslim community. One would go on almost indefinitely in this matter. But before I refer to to this precious address I would like to touch upon one item regarding which the House is entitled to have information at the earliest opportunity, namely, how has the sum of Rs. 1 lakh sanctioned in the name of communal harmony, been spent? This large sum of money was sanctioned by the House without any details, and it is high time that Government framed the details and placed them before the House. So far as we know, Sir, this constitutes a fund which along with the Publicity fund is utilised to give support to papers and individuals who support the Chief Minister. This fund is at his disposal and it constitutes his secret service or patronage fund. Sir, I shall give one instance as to how this money is being spent. Let the Chief Minister deny that Rs. 8 per inch of advertisment is being paid to his paper *Narayuga*. Now, while Rs. 8 per inch is being paid to the *Narayuga*, the *Azad* gets below Rs. 2 and the *Ananda Bazar Patrika* something above Rs. 2 per inch of the same advertisement. Let the Chief Minister contradict the statement that he spends Rs. 8 per inch on advertisements in a newspaper which he patronises. There is another paper which has no circulation at all, 350 copies of it are daily purchased by the Government merely because it supports the Chief Minister and runs down the Muslim League. Let him contradict the statement that he is paying money to some students to travel all over the province to create an atmosphere in his favour that he should be brought back within the fold of the Muslim League, (Cries of "Shame! "Shame!" from the Muslim League benches.) and that the Muslim League cannot exist without him. I can even give him the names of some of the Muslim students to whom money has been paid.

Now, Sir, I would like to refer to what little he has said in his statement on such of the matters on which he has taken the House into his supposed confidence. He has kept us in the dark on the internal situation. About the Congress campaign he said, "I do not think I can at this juncture profitably say very much. An opportunity may occur later for a longer and fuller statement". Extremely convenient indeed!

With regard to what he calls the very regrettable incident arising out of the circumstances in which the police force found it necessary to open fire in jail, he said, "I do not wish to make any observation on the incidents

in Berhampore Central Jail at the present moment" (Cries of "Shame! Shame!" from the Muslim League Opposition benches)—a ghastly tragedy where there should have been a special enquiry. He said, "I do not wish to say anything at the present moment." Are we then going to hear nothing from him about the Dacca Jail shooting affair where the Security prisoners were shot like rabbits? After a most inconclusive statement the Hon'ble Minister says, "I do not wish to say anything further". If the Chief Minister knows nothing about anything or chooses to wait for statements to be made by his opponents in the House for developing his arguments and obtaining a dialectic thrill, that is not administration, it is cheap claptrap. Sir, what does he say in his statement? The Hon'ble Minister gives a long account of the A.R.P. services which are nothing but an apology for transforming what should have been largely a voluntary service into a paid service. He appeals to the honourable members of this House, if they wish to perform a most valuable service to the country, to use their influence to secure suitable volunteers. What a confession of his failure, what a confession of his own incompetence, what a confession of his unpopularity and of that of his colleagues! He realises that he has failed utterly in arousing the slightest enthusiasm in the minds of the people for war efforts. In fact, in the last nine months supported by the Hindu Mahasabha and the Forward Bloc of the Congress he has made no attempt whatsoever towards the war effort. He knows he is hated, despised and condemned by the Muslim community, and whatever he says will be rejected by the Muslim community; and his Hindu colleagues will never open their lips even in this crisis or carry on any propaganda for voluntary efforts which may help the war efforts. Today, Sir, when the war cloud threatens Bengal it is on such rotten foundations that the government of this unhappy province is based. Throughout there is not a word of explanation, not one word of apology or regret for the manner in which the interests of the Muslims and the Scheduled Castes have been massacred in the selection of the personnel of the A.R.P. services. When the Muslim League brought it to the notice of the public, the *Bengal Weekly*, the organ of the Chief Minister, came out with a statement that the communal ratio rules did not apply to the A.R.P. services and when there was a storm of protest, the *Bengal Weekly* withdrew it and said that the Communal Ratio Rules did apply to the A.R.P. services, and then the Secretary of the Progressive Muslim Party who comes to the rescue of this Ministry from time to time formed a committee of enquiry and appealed to the public to give them information regarding the A.R.P. services, as if the Minister concerned and his department knew nothing about it and it was necessary to have an enquiry committee of the party to know what the facts were. If this is not eyewash, what it is?

Then, Sir, the next item is the consideration of the question of evacuation and the denial policy and the compensation which is being paid to the people. The Hon'ble Minister will, I think, remember how the people of Chittagong and Feni were given 24 hours' notice and were paid no compensation at all. Sir, the present rules are, of course, a great improvement on

the past position but nothing, so far as we know, has been done to pay compensation to these unfortunate people who have been turned out without any redress.

Sir, the next item is the very general, haphazard and unsatisfactory condition of the food problem, of the supply and the price of the necessities of life. This is the darkest spot in the administration of the Ministry. Nothing whatsoever has been done and what is now being done is perhaps too late. Sir, this crisis, this misfortune of the people has been taken advantage of to distribute patronage and to supply salt, sugar, rice and other controlled commodities to those who can approach the authorities; persons who have nothing to do with trade have been set up and patronised, and instead of legitimate traders being consulted in the matter of food supply, persons who have nothing to do with business have become overnight commercial magnates. All of a sudden a gentleman in Bhowanipur is given 1,000 maunds of salt and 100 bags of sugar to distribute. It transpires that this gentleman is a Secretary of the Bhowanipur Hindu Mahasabha (Cries of "Shame! Shame!" from Opposition Benches.) under the immediate patronage of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister. I have no objection to this. After all, is this not a Hindu Mahasabha Ministry with a show-boy as its puppet head? (Cries of "Shame! Shame!" from Opposition Benches.) But matters should not go further If they are found out they must not be saved One Subodh Chandra Kundu, a hardware merchant, is supplied with 100 bags of sugar on the recommendation of the Hon'ble Finance Minister. This gentleman—that is, Mr. Kundu, not the Finance Minister—is arrested by the Bhowanipur thana for profiteering. He is brought to the thana and released on bail. By some mysterious process following a representation to the Hon'ble the Chief Minister the prosecution against him is dropped (Cries of "Shame! Shame!" from Opposition Benches.) You know Kali Babu; all the honourable gentlemen opposite in the Progressive Party know Kali Babu. He is the gentleman who haunts the residence of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister. His name is Babu Kalidas Bose. He has suddenly become a commercial magnate. He is a partner in a concern which is known as the Civil Supply Stores Syndicate and this has a chain of 25 shops throughout the city. He writes in his letter paper "Recognised Government shops". He can get whatever he wants—ten thousand maunds, twenty thousand maunds at a time, this is merely a trifle to him. Unfortunately, Kali Babu is arrested for profiteering (Laughter.) Fortunately for him, Sir, on the intervention of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister the case is dropped. (Cries of "Shame! Shame" from Opposition Benches.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. I have given you enough latitude. I might say that crying of "shame" is an interruption and is highly unparliamentary.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: What is the use, Sir, of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister saying in his vainglorious statement "We seek co-operation

but if the trade cannot deal with its own black sheep we may have to apply compulsion". Are these the black sheep of the trade? Let me give another example. One Dulal Chandra Dhar refused to honour a permit of 10 bags of sugar. He was taken to task by the department. He has had the effrontery or the indiscretion to make an endorsement "Kindly refer to the Hon'ble Minister". Fortunately, Sir, this matter is being proceeded with. Let us await the result. Since Mr. Pinnell assumed office 50 shops have been opened for the supply of rice—Government-controlled rice—and of this rice—fortunately the Government of India had some in its possession—is now being doled out to the people in Calcutta. The selection of these shops was to be from well established and old dealers, and obviously, Sir, a new concern known as the United Stores, a concern flourishing just beneath the Hon'ble Chief Minister's house and presumably under his eagle eye, was left out. On the recommendation of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister it has since been included. But such instances could be given *ad infinitum*. We are more concerned with the distribution and we are entitled to demand that Muslim shops should be opened in Muslim localities so that Muslims should be served. Probably, these Muslim shops will be the only ones that will carry on in case of air raids and we cannot afford to take the risk of Muslim masses starving owing to the disappearance of the shopkeepers of another community. The officers have not been able to discover more than seven Muslims in the whole of Calcutta to whom this privilege may be given although the Muslim merchants are the biggest rice merchants in Calcutta. We earnestly request you, Sir, whoever looks after this affair to rectify this error at an early date.

Sir, I have very little time to refer to the Home Guards. The whole thing is an impracticable solution. In a union composed of ten thousand persons 25 people are going to be chosen for the purpose of guarding their region. Those 25 people are actually going to be chosen for the purpose of receiving the Hon'ble Ministers when they go to any particular place. Civic Guards, paid Civic Guards, today are being turned out to receive Hon'ble Ministers when they arrive at particular places. Is it for this that the defence services have been created? Is it for this that the money is being paid to the Civic Guards and the money comes from the provincial coffers? The objects, Sir, of creating these Home Guards, I am constrained to say, are not the objects which the Hon'ble Minister outlines in his statement, and, Sir, an extraordinary statement has been made by him. Coercion by the Ministers could hardly go further. Persons are given gun licences either for protection or for sport. We had heard, Sir, but we did not believe it that pressure was being brought to bear on these gun licencees to join the Home Guards. They were told that unless they joined the Home Guards their gun licences would be taken away. We did not believe, Sir, that the authorities could stoop to that level but the Chief Minister bluntly made that statement on the floor of this House, "We look to gun licencees to join the Home Guards and we shall be prepared to bring pressure upon licence holders either to enrol or to make their weapons available for the common defence", a euphemistic way of saying that "If you do not join

the Home Guards we will take away your weapons". We had never thought that the administration would stoop to that.

Nothing is said, Sir, regarding the infamous circular about the Home Guards under which Muslim Leaguers were to be kept out. Special directions were given not to take Muslim Leaguers but to consult the Hindu Mahasabha. I believe, Sir, it has been changed, but I would like to see not only the amended circular in which this has been changed, because I am aware that an amended circular has gone out, but also the original circular. Unless the Chief Minister can place both the circulars before the House I am not prepared to take back the statement which has been corroborated not by one officer of the Government but by several officers of Government.

Before I sit down, Sir, I crave your indulgence to refer to the purple passage in that statement regarding the policy of the Government in reference to the Congress campaign. Is this Ministry a Janus with two heads, one turned to the Governor and one turned to the people——.

(The red light was lit.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Suhrawardy, you have covered more than 25 minutes. I have given you 10 minutes more. I hope you will finish in a minute.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Thank you, Sir. Is this Ministry a Janus with two heads, one turned to the Governor and one turned to the people, or a three-headed monstrosity, a small head also turned to the European group—a three-headed Mahasabha monster. To the Governor the Ministry say "We are your humble slaves, we will do whatever you like; we will shut up, we will incarcerate, we will get hold of our own people, our partisans and supporters, and we will put them in jail. To the public they say "We condemn this repressive policy of the Government". "We are not responsible for it", says Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee at a Press Conference. When asked why the Government of Bengal was carrying out a repressive policy, he said "We were not consulted by the Government of India when they launched upon this policy". Moreover, he made a very very remarkable statement. It is this: ——.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Suhrawardy, you are not permitted to read extracts from newspapers.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: This is a press statement. He said: "Ministers in the Provinces had to conform to the policy". Sir, a more incorrect statement, a more misleading statement could not be made. The Government of India stated that the Ministry was expected to conform to their policy. The Ministry could have disagreed with it. The Ministry could have gone so far as to say "We do not agree with this policy", but if we are required to carry it out, call upon us under section 126 of the Government of India Act and we shall carry on, although we disagree.

They have done nothing of the kind; all the acts are being done under the authority of the Government of Bengal; but the responsibility is being attempted to be foisted on the Government of India. This is not honest. He says that the Bengal Ministry are not responsible, it is really the Government of India which are responsible, and they are merely carrying out the policy of the Government of India. Sir, ——

(At this stage the honourable member reached his time limit but was allowed to continue his speech.)

Now, Sir, the European Group say what does it matter, let the poor lads have their say before the public. The European Group will pat the Ministry on the back and the Ministry will say "Even if we are dishonest in our statements bear with us; we must cling to our seats; please support us. We are very good boys, we will do whatever you will ask us to do, only permit us to tell the public that we are not responsible for all this and that we condemn it." At the instance of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister who presides over the Home Department, the Secretary of the Party, who comes to the rescue of the Ministry from time to time, issued a statement calling upon the public to tell him how many arrests had been made and how many persons had been killed; and so on; another eye-wash to make it appear that the Ministry is utterly innocent and disowns responsibility for the acts of its officers. The Chief Minister does not know what the Commissioner of Police does, does not believe what the Commissioner of Police says, he calls upon the public to tell him what the real facts are. We are expected to put our trust in this Ministry, Sir, the main directors and partisans of which are suspected of intrigue against the Government. This Ministry is against the war policy of the British Cabinet and against the policy of the Government of India. To use the words of my esteemed friend Mr. Siddiqi this action of the Ministry, if anything, undermines the public morale and breeds complete distrust in the Government of the day.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Come and occupy these seats.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Whether we occupy them or not is a different matter. If you have any self-respect, any sense of decency or honesty, your first duty is to go out of office.

Mr. DAVID HENDRY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am afraid Mr. Suhrawardy got himself into unnecessary difficulties when he adopted the simile of a Janus headed body for the present Government. If he had adopted the simile of the hydra headed monster then he might have added as many heads as he liked without imposing any limitations upon himself and he would not have been put to so much trouble to add us on. His simile, however, is both inapt and inaccurate and how he can include us as one of the heads of Government is beyond my comprehension.

To come now to the statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister. This statement has been useful in more than one respect, for it has clarified some

points and raised others on which we should like further information. Many of us have been anxious to know what steps Government has taken to solve the unusual and urgent problems raised by the near approach of the Japanese enemy to our borders and to have some reassurance that the measures taken have been in keeping with the gravity of the situation. In considering the Chief Minister's statement, therefore, each Government activity must be viewed against the background of the war and its value assessed by the degree in which it strengthens the war effort and increases the security of the province as a whole. We know that the administration has been working under a heavy strain in grappling with new and unprecedented tasks, but the circumstances call for exceptional efforts; we realise also that a heavy responsibility is imposed upon all of us who are members of the Legislature to co-operate with those efforts and assist with constructive criticism where we can.

Of many unwonted tasks imposed upon the administration the measures for evacuation and the putting into effect of the denial policy have probably been the most difficult which they have had to deal with, for these measures, dictated as they are by military necessity, must inevitably cause some inconvenience and even hardship in individual cases. We do believe that the Government and its officers have made every endeavour to reduce hardship to the minimum and that compensation to those deprived of their property has been paid on a full and generous scale Nevertheless delays and mistakes have undoubtedly occurred, and we hope Government will speed up the rectification of these on the same generous lines.

Compensation, however, important as it may be, is only one aspect of evacuation and denial and another no less important aspect is the after care of the evacuees and of those who have been deprived of boats and other possessions essential to the routine of their daily lives. On this subject the information supplied by the Chief Minister is meagre and not altogether satisfactory. We should like to have more and I hope he will give it. Then there are other aspects of the defence of the province. Evacuation and denial, absolutely essential as they are, and better as they are, than the alternatives of plunder and confiscation without compensation, represent rather the negative side of defence. The more positive and important side is the protection afforded by the military forces present in the threatened areas; and we must not overlook the benefits which the presence of large numbers of these forces in the province have had or bring in the shape of money and employment. This influx of spending power and the very good relations which we have been told exist between the forces and the civil population must have been of very great benefit, particularly in remote districts, and we would have appreciated hearing something more on this side of the question. We hope the Chief Minister will be good enough to tell us.

The question of the A.R.P. arrangements in the province and particularly in Calcutta will be discussed more fully by later speakers, but I should like to say here that much as has been done there is still room for a great deal more. The efficiency and equipment of the A.R.P. Services

must be further improved, and much more sympathetic and intelligent handling of voluntary workers is essential if the valuable assistance which these can render are to be retained. We have been fortunate in that we have had no raids on Calcutta so far, but the complacency which has grown up is one of our most serious dangers at the present time; because of that absence of raids the slackness of the public in not taking shelter when the air-raid warning sounds shows only too clearly that the warning is not taken seriously. The Commissioner of Police and His Excellency the Governor himself have told us that these are not practice warnings, and the only deduction which can be made is that there are Japanese enemy planes in the neighbourhood and a bombing raid may develop at any time. What that would mean with the civilian population not taking shelter was shown only too clearly in the first raid on Rangoon. An intensified campaign of warning to the public to take shelter should be carried out at once.

We are glad to hear of the improvement in the organisation and training of the Civic Guards, for these, particularly in Calcutta, have become increasingly important and have been taking on more and more duties connected not only with law and order but with A. R. P., Government controlled grain shops, and other activities. The usefulness of a body of this kind is difficult to overestimate and they should receive every official encouragement that it is possible to give.

On the other hand, the position with regard to the Home Guards is not quite so clear. We are glad to learn that some progress has been made with their organisation and training, but it does appear that there has been too much delay over questions of appointments and control. We are glad to hear from the Chief Minister that, as he puts it, "There is no sectarianism in the organisation which is open to all, irrespective of political or religious affiliation", but repeated newspaper reports regarding the appointment of captains have established the impression that all is not well in this organisation. For instance, we were told that no member of the Muslim League can be appointed as a captain, and, although we understand that such instructions, if issued, were subsequently withdrawn, the position is by no means clear, and I hope that the Chief Minister will take an opportunity in concluding the debate of removing all doubts and misunderstandings. We should also like to hear from the Opposition that members of the Muslim League are not in any way barred by the League from joining the Home Guard. This organisation is one of tremendous potential usefulness in which every one can co-operate irrespective of creed, caste or politics, and we should like to know that no patriotic Bengali is forbidden by political considerations from taking part through this organisation in the defence of his homeland.

The question of food supply and price control was discussed in this House last week, but on this all-important question the information appearing in the Chief Minister's statement appears to us to be both inadequate and disappointing. For months past the control organisation has appeared incapable of coping with this large and intricate problem. A Communique published some weeks ago revealed that the Department was

being re-organised under a Director of Civil Supplies. We had hoped that the Chief Minister would give fuller details and satisfactory information regarding the plan and schemes of the new organisation. Instead we are given some very general information with regard to the supply position which is neither definite nor reassuring. The main aspects of the question, namely, distribution and price control, are touched upon in the lightest fashion, and we are told practically nothing about the 50 controlled grain shops which Government has recently opened. We have heard Mr. Suhrawardy's comments on these and I hope the Chief Minister will take the opportunity of satisfying an anxious legislature on this question. It is not enough to say as the Chief Minister has said "that the Province can help itself considerably by organising a comprehensive and anti-hoarding drive in Calcutta and districts with the active support and co-operation of organised trade and the leaders of public opinion." What does this mean, Sir? Who is to do the organising and how?

And lastly, Sir, I come to what is the most important problem of all, namely, the organised campaign of disturbance which has broken out in the province since the ratification of the Congress Working Committee's resolution by the All-India Congress Committee. A campaign it is significant to note which has not been participated in by the Muslim community. Of all the recent dangers which have threatened the province, this is the most serious and the most lamentable, and I should like at the outset to assure the Chief Minister and the Government that we as a Party and a community congratulate Government on their handling of the situation and condemn utterly and unreservedly the campaign and the steps which led up to it. We are in no two minds about this, and we stand firmly in support of this Government and the Government at the centre in the policies which they are at present pursuing. Attempts have been made to create the impression that Europeans in Bengal are divided in their own minds as to the rightness or wrongness of the policy in higher regions which is held to have provoked the disturbances all over India which have affected us here in Bengal to such a considerable extent. This has arisen out of the publicity given in the press during the past week or so to a resolution passed by a small and anonymous group of Europeans expressing the opinion "That the British Government should forthwith announce its readiness to transfer full powers to a National Government of India and provide immediate facilities for its formation". That, however, does not represent the opinion of my Party, and I claim to speak for practically the whole of the European community in Bengal where our numbers are greater than in any other part of India when I say that we and our constituents wholeheartedly support the policy recently affirmed by the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for India; and further that we have full confidence in the Viceroy and his Executive Council in any steps they may take to secure the early achievement of the full self-government and independence of India as an equal partner in the British Commonwealth of Nations. The speeches in the Central Assembly at Delhi last week of three European members, all from this province, set out very fully and clearly our attitude to this question as a whole, and the

picture they have given of European opinion is accurate and unmistakable. There is nothing whatsoever which can be properly described as a division of opinion among us and, although there may be a few dissidents from the general opinion that is no unusual thing and need not be given undue importance. We, Europeans, in Bengal are neither die-hard nor reactionary. We wish to serve India and the province and help in the early establishment of an independent government, but at the same time we have a strong sense of realism and of what is practical, particularly in the middle of a life-and-death war. 50 per cent. of our male population in Bengal are already in the fighting services and of those of us who are left I know of none who is not engaged in some direct war activity to help achieve that victory which means every bit as much to India as to any other of the United Nations.

So far as the present situation in Bengal is concerned, we affirm our fullest support of the measures taken by the Government of India and by the Government of Bengal to deal with the organised campaign of lawlessness and sabotage which has done so much to help the Axis powers and which would have done so much more had it not been checked. This sabotage, directed chiefly against our vital communications, and the whole vicious campaign, has resulted in harm not only to the security of this province but to the defence of the country as a whole and the common cause of freedom for which the United Nations are fighting. The firm measures already taken, and particularly the promptness with which they *were* taken, have undoubtedly saved this province from disaster. Complaints there will be that in quelling disturbances innocent people have lost their lives. No one could deplore this more than we do, but in dealing with mass violence it is unfortunately ever the case that a few of the innocent suffer with the guilty. But, had prompt and firm action not been taken, had the disturbances been allowed to develop and spread, the number of innocents killed would have been vastly increased. By their swift and firm action and by the courage and skill they have displayed under the most trying circumstances this Government of Bengal Ministers and the Police they control have undoubtedly saved countless lives, and surely we owe them a debt of gratitude for that alone.

In conclusion, Sir, I would like to make an appeal. In my own younger days I have seen country people driven from their homes, under shell-fire, by the advancing tide of war. It is a harrowing sight and one which I hope never to see again, particularly in this province of Bengal. I would appeal therefore to every responsible Indian Nationalist, and to every Bengali patriot who values the cause of peace and freedom, and desires to see the defeat of the Japanese or any of the aggressor powers before they can lay hands on this province, to support the Government and its executive officers to the utmost of their capacity in the restoration of law and order throughout the country; and to devote themselves heart and soul to helping the War effort wherever and whenever they can for the early and complete achievement of Victory.

Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thought I should refrain from taking part in the discussion on the statement of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister this morning, but I find that the responsibility has been thrust on my shoulders on account of the speeches of the members opposite. Though we belong entirely to two different schools of thought at the present moment, I have nothing but great admiration for the wonderful abilities of Mr. Suhrawardy. I thought Mr. Suhrawardy would take a calm and dispassionate view of the entire question and would not allow any personal consideration to intervene in his discussion of the Chief Minister's statement. Mr. Suhrawardy in dealing with the situation has dealt with certain aspects which require serious consideration. We do feel, Sir, that the time has come when all the members of this House representing the various constituencies in Bengal should investigate all the questions that are involved in his statement. Sir, I can assure the honourable members opposite that we are here not to support the Government simply because we belong to that party, we are not to support the Government in any wrong policy pursued by them. Unfortunately, however, Mr. Suhrawardy, while dealing with the situation, has lost sight of the various factors, various conditions, which have imposed upon the present Government difficulties that are not easily surmountable in the circumstances in which they have been placed. First of all, with the advent of this new Ministry they were faced with a menace from the enemy knocking at our doors. They were also faced with the difficulty of adequate food supply owing to restriction of movement of essential commodities of life. They were also faced with difficulties regarding transport, due to the Denial Policy denying facilities for movements of country boats in the coastal districts of Bengal. They have also been faced with difficulties that have been created due to the disturbances following the arrest of Congress leaders—difficulties of such complexity and magnitude as have arisen during the regime of the present Ministry cannot be ignored by a barrister of Mr. Suhrawardy's standing. Sir, in spite of all these difficulties, in spite of these dangers that have confronted us, the Government have not been inactive, as alleged by Mr. Suhrawardy. Government have taken up the task of co-ordinating the Civil Defence organisation in right earnest commensurate with the funds at their disposal. In spite of their wild talk I can assure the honourable members opposite that we are absolutely satisfied so far as the Civil Defence organisation is concerned. That is perfectly all right. But in the matter of appointments certainly the claims of the Muslims and the Scheduled Castes have been ignored most miserably. And if the Government is responsible for that it is for the Government to defend itself. We Muslims feel that in the matter of appointments, in the matter of distribution of posts to the various classes and communities the permanent officials, both Hindus and Europeans, have ignored all canons of reasoning, all principles of fairplay and justice. I do not know whether the communal ratio rules did apply in the case of A. R. P. appointments made by a particular officer appointed for the purpose. I do not know whether the Ministry had a check over the vagaries of these officers—that is a matter for the Ministry to explain. I

am not encroaching upon the rights of the Ministry, nor do I pretend to pry into the secrets of the Cabinet. Let the Chief Minister defend his own position. If the Ministry has any responsibility, the Ministry cannot absolve itself from that responsibility. Whatever be the position, we are not going to defend anything which is indefensible. If we are on a bad wicket, we are not going to blame others for it. I can assure the honourable members opposite that we support this Government because we are convinced that in the discharge of their responsibilities they have not failed us in spite of certain restrictions imposed from outside, by considerations, by factors, by circumstances and by forces over which they have had no control. The responsibilities with which the Government have been saddled in the present state of things could not have been imagined in normal times and in normal circumstances.

I now come to the question of Dacca and Berhampore Jails. The Chief Minister has referred in brief to the Berhampore incident. In these matters we feel as strongly as the members of the Opposition do; we feel that an equiry should be instituted to look into the allegations made. There have been indiscriminate shootings. We have had reports that people climbing up trees were shot down, people running for their lives were shot down. If these excesses, if this lawlessness, if this hooliganism, if this rowdyism of goondas, have got to be checked, the hooliganism and rowdyism of the police force has also to be condemned and denounced. It is after all a question of investigation, and if after enquiry and investigation it is discovered that even though Government had no direct hand in this matter, and that the police force that was employed in shooting innocent people if they were really innocent people was responsible for it, even then the Ministry having the ultimate responsibility in this matter will be held responsible.

Coming to the question of foodstuff, which is one of the most important questions, I may submit that on the last occasion when the first non-official resolution was being discussed in this House, I specially appealed to you, Sir, to allow another day for discussion, because we wanted to discuss this question in details and to know the real position. Sir, this is a question which affects the people of the entire province and in the matter of supply of foodstuffs we cannot allow anybody to fleece the public, to rob the public and to swindle the public. Sir, the time has been very short for setting up an organisation of the Directorate of Supplies, and if there have been black sheep in the organisation and factors which have gone against the policy of Government such things cannot be changed all at once. But times are fast changing, and we want to see vagaries checked, and an honest, effective and efficient control, established. No bungling, no swindling, no dirt, no filth and no abomination will be allowed to go unchecked. (Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Even of the Ministers?) I do not know what is the responsibility of the Ministers in these matters. It is an unfortunate tragedy, a misfortune in the public life of Bengal that some amount of dirt attaches to it whatever the administration in this democratic constitution. It has come to stay, it has become a permanent

feature in the administration of this province, it became a permanent feature of any administration—whether the previous administration or the present. I am afraid, we might be suffering from the legacy of the past. It might be that the legacy has fastened on to us, it has stuck on to us and that in spite of ourselves we cannot help it. The fact, however, remains that we are not a party to that dirt or filth. If there is any dirt or filth, it must be washed, and the administration must be purged clean so that the public life of Bengal might flow in its pristine purity.

Sir, coming to the question of Secondary Education may I remind my learned friend Mr. Shaheed Suhrawardy, that we met in a Select Committee and discussed the questions for three days, discussed certain sections and provisions of the Bill. After that a point was raised and that point was about the Chairmanship, and Mr. Fazlur Rahman will bear me out that there was a heated discussion and ultimately a particular gentleman was elected Chairman. The matter was referred to the Advocate-General and he opined that the particular gentleman could not be the Chairman. Therefore the question has been postponed for the time being. It has been referred to the Deputy Speaker for further elucidation and clarification of the matter. It is not that we are going to torpedo the Bill, we are not going to shelve the Bill. As I said on one occasion, we will not submit to any dictation, to any domination from any quarters. My friend in his overzealousness said that we have been dominated by the Hindu Mahasabha. May I remind my Mahasabha friends and friends of the Congress persuation that we Muslims do not submit to any domination but to the domination of God Almighty alone. We do not submit to the domination of any human agency, not even to the domination of Mr. Fazlul Huq himself. I can assure my friends opposite that we will not rest on our oars, we are going to see that the Secondary Education Bill is passed into law. (VOICE FROM THE OPPOSITION BENCHES: When?) Wait and you will see. I am telling you in all sincerity but in all humility, I am appealing to you to patiently listen to me. I am saying this in all sincerity but in all humility that we feel that we cannot justify our existence, we cannot justify the existence of the Government, we cannot justify our support to the Government, till the Secondary Education Bill is placed on the Statute Book. May I voice the feelings of the Muslim friends here and the Scheduled Caste friends that we must not rest content till the Secondary Education Bill is passed into law. I may say here that Government have not stood in our way; they have not placed any restrictions in our path; Government are not insincere at all; they are not unsympathetic to our aspirations. Government have helped us in every possible way. Let us criticise the Government where criticism is due. Let us not withhold our admiration for the Government where admiration is due. Let us have the courage of our conviction, let us have honesty of purpose, let us have the sincerity, let us have the candour and the goodness not to withhold our admiration for the Government when the Government is engaged in the task of alleviating and relieving the sufferings of the distressed, in the task of giving compensation to the poor victims of the denial policy. Let us not withhold our admiration for the Government

even when compensation allowed has been on a generous scale. True, owing to the denial policy hardships of the people have been very great and people have been compelled to evacuate at a very short notice. Difficulties have been great. Any Government functioning as it does at the present moment would have been compelled to do the very same thing. There is no escape from the position since we have no control over the military authorities, the whole thing being determined by military considerations.

Sir, then I come to the question of communal harmony. Mr. Shaheed Suhrawardy has waxed very eloquent over the question of communal harmony. Not a pie of that fund has been released for any purpose to which he has referred and of which he has given hints. I say on authority that not a pie of that fund has been released. (Cries of "no", "no" from Opposition Benches). You can contradict, you can challenge. We have had enough of challenges and counter-challenges, enough of statements and counter-statements. No more of it, no more of further bitterness. I can assure here and now that not a pie of that fund has been released——

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Since Mr. Badrudduja knows so much of it, will he please tell us for what purpose——

Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA: I can assure Mr. Suhrawardy that not a pie has been released——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Suhrawardy, if Mr. Badrudduja does not give way I connot compel him.

Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA: Sir, in spite of the fact that not a pie of that fund has been released for introducing communal harmony in the province, communal harmony is there. There are no Dacca riots at the present moment disgracing the fair name of the entire province; there are no communal bickerings; there is nothing whatsoever except what my friends over there choose to do. They might have given wrong lead to public opinion; they might have even misled Muslim public opinion against one of the greatest Muslims at the present moment who made positive contributions not only to the Muslims of Bengal alone but to the Muslims of India. There is not a soul breathing who has more to his credit. Nobody has done greater services to the Muslim community, Muslim cause, Muslim salvation, Muslim interests than Mr. Fazlul Huq. I say this not because I am a member of his party. I might some day be ploughing a lonely furrow. It might be possible that I will be an independent member to-morrow. I have got courage of my own conviction because God is there to protect me. I can say here and now that there is not one single soul in Bengal at the present moment who has 1/10th the services of Mr. Fazlul Huq. Mr. Fazlul Huq has made positive contributions to the political and social life of the country, by his services and sacrifices, by all that he has done for the student community, by all that he has done for the

Muslim masses in his various capacities as Education Minister, as Chief Minister, as Advocate and as leader of public opinion. (Interruptions from Opposition Benches.) No amount of contradiction, no amount of challenge, will convince the public otherwise. By all that Mr. Fazlul Huq has done he has laid the community under a deep debt of gratitude.

(At this stage the red light was lit.)

Please let me have three minutes more. I have not prepared a speech; I have no written speech. I have simply taken notes and I am speaking from notes. I crave the indulgence of the House.

I say it may be that we differ. It may be that you may differ from Mr. Fazlul Huq. We differ honestly as we differed honestly from the Hindu Sabha gentlemen in the past. It is the circumstances of the political life for which we differ. To-morrow chances might come when you may combine with us. The European friends are supporting us to-day; to-morrow they might go over to the Opposition. That is a different matter altogether. They have got a policy of their own to support the Government which is in power. If you form a Government to-day they will support you. But, Sir, that is neither here nor there.

Coming to the subversive movement that has been discussed so eloquently by Mr. Shaheed Suhrawardy, I may submit that we also feel strongly on that point. He says that the Government of Bengal is carrying out the policy of the Government of India. My friend over there with all his knowledge of the constitution, with all his experience of the workings of the Government of India Act, can he say that any Government functioning in any land could have any other alternative, any other choice, any other escape from the position but to support and execute the policy of the Government of India? (Interruptions from the Opposition Benches.) I have very patiently listened to all that you have said with very close attention and respect. Let me have your patience now. No Government functioning in any province can have any choice but to support and to execute the policy laid down by the Government of India at this hour of the greatest crisis when the fate of the Empire, the fate of the country is trembling in the balance. If you can trace the cause of this unrest, the cause of this unfortunate state of things, it might be possible to find out that this sporadic movement, this dislocation of communications, these forces of subversion have no connection with the movement initiated by the Congress. But whatever might be the genesis, whatever might be the parenthood, whatever might be the authorship of this subversive movement, the fact remains whoever forms the Government, whether it is the Leader of the Opposition or it is the Leader of the House, they have got to thwart the movement, they have got to prevent the growth of this movement——(Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Why then disclaim responsibility?) They did not disclaim responsibility. I have repeatedly stressed, I have repeatedly emphasised that the Government have no other choice in this matter. They have no choice because no sensible man with eyes open can invite forces of destruction from abroad. True the record of the British Government is not very glorious, the record of the British Government is

not very glorious, the record of the British Government is not very brilliant, encouraging or inspiring, so far as Indian aspirations are concerned. True that the urge for liberty, the urge for independence, the urge for freedom has not been appreciated by the British Government. True that in spite of the demand for independence by the Congress, by the Liberal Federation, by the Mahasabha, by the Muslim League, by the European Association, by journalists and great statesmen like Mr. Arthur Moore, the British Government led by Messrs. Churchill and Amery will not concede to the demand of India. Although they may pretend to fight for independence, for freedom, for democracy, yet they will not concede to the demand of India. An emasculated India, a disarmed India, a disorganised India, a paralysed India will be shaking in its boots, yet there is no choice in this matter. We cannot invite Hitlerism or fascism in India; we cannot invite another lease of slavery or tutelage under another foreign domination. We want to be free, we want to be independent with the status of an independent nation in the world; we will fight for that. We will struggle for that; we will bleed to death for that. We will appeal to the British Government, we will persuade the British Government, we will put pressure on them to concede to our demand, but we cannot lend any support, encouragement or incitement to the subversive movement that is going on in the country. In that respect, the Government of Bengal are justified.

As regards the jute problem it might be that the Chief Minister has lost sight of that but we have already recommended to the Government certain proposals regarding this problem and our proposals are being examined by them at the present moment, and I can assure you that before long, the Government of Bengal will come to the rescue of the poor cultivators of Bengal.

(Mr. Dhirendranath Sen rose to speak.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sen, please try to finish your speech in 10 minutes.

Mr. DHIRENDRANATH SEN: I shall try, Sir. After the very eloquent and I may say very sincere speech of my honourable friend Mr. Badrudduja I think I have very little to say on the statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

At the outset I may say that I have heard with great regret the ruthless criticism of the statement of the Chief Minister by my honourable friend Mr. Suhrawardy. He has put venom and molten lava on the noble head of the Hon'ble Chief Minister. Mr. Suhrawardy has himself admitted, and all of us know it, that we are in the midst of the war, in the midst of a devastating war, and what should be—may I ask him—the duty, the primary duty of the Government to do at this present difficult juncture. The first duty should be to protect the civil population from the danger of an air raid. I must congratulate the Government for the progress this department

of the Government has made since the Assembly was in session last. Of course there are defects. No system is perfect at the outset. Every system or organisation is based on some theoretical ideas and these develop into practical form when the occasion arises when men in authority sit together for days and months trying to remove the defects and introduce innovations.

So far as this A. R. P. organisation goes, I may place before the House that I had the opportunity of meeting a representative of the St. John's Ambulance Society who admitted that the A. R. P. organisation in England before the first air raid was not in the way as it has been in India. I may say that this speaks very highly of the organisation of the Government, so far as the A. R. P. is concerned.

My next point is regarding voluntary wardens. The Chief Minister in his statement has spoken about the difficulties of securing voluntary wardens for the A. R. P. service. I am sure the Hon'ble Chief Minister has found out what is the reason of not getting these voluntary wardens. I feel that these voluntary wardens have got to attend some lectures in the stations and they have got to go there which they cannot do at the present moment on account of the rationing of petrol and on account of this rainy season, and I think it will be better if arrangements are made for pooling these gentlemen to these posts where A. R. P. instructions are given. If this is done, I think voluntary wardens will be available.

My next point is the question of evacuation. Mr. Suhrawardy has said that in certain cases notices were served to evacuate the places within 24 hours. These are military requirements and I am sure that we cannot blame the civil Government for asking the people to vacate places within 24 hours. Even today in England, notices are being issued to vacate the eastern coast of England within 24 hours.

The question of compensation has been very elaborately dealt with by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. I may say that, so far as the denial policy of Government is concerned, the civil Government is not at all responsible for anything that has been done in this matter. True there has been great hardship regarding obtaining foodstuffs, and the prices of materials have all gone very high, but how far we can make the present Government responsible for that I fail to understand. It is an admitted fact that prices are controlled and some arrangements are being made for proper supply. In order to obtain proper and regular supply there must be facilities for transports, and we all know that the question of transport is not in the hands of the Provincial Government.

I do not want to discuss the other points, as these have been very elaborately discussed by my honourable friend Mr. Badrudduja. I only want to say one word to my European friends regarding one matter. Much has been said about the subversive movement and Congress activities. No one who wants the Government to function would like to see disobedience of law and order, but we cannot ignore one fact, namely, that this subversive movement is only an outburst of the disappointment of the people when they feel sure that nothing was going to be done, so far as the Indians were concerned, to give them freedom.

I would now say that the time has come when we and the British must stand together as comrades in arms. We must bury our past, our differences and our bickerings and unite our hearts for a common purpose. We can achieve that purpose only when we are equals. We can attain our goal of freedom and democracy only when India has a full self-government working in partnership with the United Nations.

Babu PREMHARI BARMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the statement which the Hon'ble Chief Minister has made on the floor of the House about the events that took place in the administration of this Province, I regret to say, could not satisfy us, inasmuch as his statement did not touch the vital problems with which Bengal is faced today. The statement narrates only what has been done with regard to the A. R. P. organisation, Civic Guard organisation and Home Guard organisation and how much money is paid by way of price and compensation to boat owners and others whose boats have been taken over by the Government as a result of the "denial policy". Of course these things are also of urgent public importance and Government have done well in giving proper attention to these things for the defence of the Province. But Sir, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has not been good enough to throw any light whatsoever on what Government have done or propose to do with regard to the economic problems with which Bengal is faced today. Government has not given us any light about the reasons why the price control system of Government has been a total failure and whether Government has taken any measures in the right direction to make effective the price control policy. I hope the Government is fully aware that as a result of their price control policy the prices of daily necessaries of life of the people of Bengal instead of coming down within the limits fixed by Government have gone up much above the limits and the articles for which prices have been fixed have become scarce. The main defect of this control policy lies in the fact that the price control system has not been evolved on a Provincial basis, but it has been made on a district basis. The result has been that in different districts different prices have been fixed. Moreover there is no control on inter-district transport. Therefore the merchants of the district easily transport their commodities to the neighbouring districts where they get much higher prices. Such has been the case in Dinajpur. There was enough sugar in Dinajpur but when the price of sugar at Dinajpur was fixed the big merchants of Dinajpur transferred their stock and sold most of their sugar in other districts where they got much higher prices. If the control price system had been made on a Provincial basis such cases would not have happened. Moreover, before enforcing the system of fixing prices, Government ought to have taken a list of stock of each of the merchants of their goods. If such a list had been taken the big merchants would never have been able to conceal their goods and the Government could have forced them to sell their goods at control prices. When there was no stock-taking beforehand big merchants either sold their goods or transferred them to other districts just when prices were fixed in any district. Another reason for the failure of the price control of Government is that Government totally failed to

provide transport facilities. The merchants did not get wagons unless they took recourse to some corrupt practices. In short the policy of the Government with regard to control of prices and supplies has brought about all sorts of corruption, profiteering, etc. It is really regrettable that the Government policy instead of stopping corruption and bribery has given sufficient scope for these. I hope the Government would take immediately necessary steps to stop the corruption, profiteering and other things.

Again, Sir, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has made a comprehensive and detailed statement with regard to A. R. P. in the Province, and a large number of persons have been appointed with sufficient pay in this organisation. But though this Government has the wholehearted support of the Scheduled Castes and Muslims, the Scheduled Castes and Muslims have not been fortunate to get appointments in this organisation. May we know the reasons why the Muslims and specially the Scheduled Castes have not been appointed in proportion to the Communal Ratio Rules of the Government? The A. R. P. Services are Government services. Why have the Communal Ratio Rules been ignored in this case and who are responsible for the non-observance of these rules? As I have said already the Hon'ble Chief Minister has devoted his time in giving details of the A.R.P. organisation, Civic Guard organisation and about the Denial policy But the Hon'ble Chief Minister is almost silent about the political situation in the Province. It is really curious that the Hon'ble Chief Minister is silent about the reckless firing by the Police and military in Calcutta during recent disturbances consequent on the arrest of Congress leaders. We all hoped that the Hon'ble Chief Minister would enlighten us as to who were responsible for these firings whereby innocent persons and pedestrians were killed? We are also quite ignorant about the correct number of casualties as a result of firing by the Police and the military. We want to know whether the firing was done under the orders of the Government and, if not, who were responsible for this reckless firing upon innocent persons in the streets of Calcutta. Has the Government taken any steps to bring to book those who are responsible for such reckless firing. I hope the Government will not fail to put before the public a true statement of facts regarding this. We hope that Government would not fail also to enquire into the matter by a Committee consisting of officials and non-officials as soon as possible.

Government should also appoint an Enquiry Committee consisting of officials and non-officials to enquire into the disturbances in the Dacca and Berhampore Jails where firing had to be resorted to as a result of which many lives had been lost. If the Government is eager to maintain its prestige as a popular Government then it should not fail to appoint these committees without the least delay. I also want to know from the Hon'ble Chief Minister whether Government has any duty to protect the members of the Legislature who are supporters of the Government. We see that members who are supporters of Government are being arrested one after another under the Defence of India Rules. We want to know whether the Government were consulted before these arrests and whether Government gave consent to these arrests and whether the members who had been arrested had done

anything prejudicial to the public peace and tranquillity of the Province Even in that case how did the Police arrest honourable members specially those supporting the Government without the consent of Government? Are we to understand that Government is not responsible for the arrest and detention under the Defence of India Rules and that the Government has abdicated all powers with regard to the arrest and detention in favour of the Police? May I ask, is not the Government ashamed at the arrest of its own supporters and should not we, the supporters of Government, be ashamed of these arrests? We can have nothing to say and nothing to be ashamed of if the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Government can tell us that after being satisfied with the prejudicial activities of the members concerned the Government consented to the arrest of the honourable members of the Legislature. I hope the Hon'ble Chief Minister will enlighten the House and the public about all these things.

Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, my honourable friend, Mr. Suhrawardy, in the course of a superb speech on which I congratulate him most heartily has shown how the Chief Minister has failed to deal with important matters in his statement which is otherwise unnecessarily lengthy. I do not like to touch upon the points that have been so ably dealt with by my friend, Mr. Suhrawardy. I would like to confine myself to only three points.

First of all, the Chief Minister has touched on the food problem in the course of his statement, but he has dealt with it in a most perfunctory manner. We do not know where he stands; we do not know whether Government have taken any statistics, as to the stocks available now as regards paddy and rice. If there has been a stock-taking and if there is no shortage then the Government should immediately come forward with a public declaration to that effect. That will immediately ease the situation because those who are now holding the stocks would then come to know that as soon as the next crop comes into the market prices will fall, and they will be losers. Therefore, the silence that the Government is now observing is highly regrettable: If, on the other hand, the stocks are insufficient and if the stocks will not carry us up to the next crop season then it is a very serious situation that is going to arise in the near future. In that case Government should take immediate steps to evolve a well-planned rationing scheme and apply it throughout the length and breadth of the province. Unless they do that, the province will be faced with starvation. It is regrettable that Government have not at all seriously considered this aspect of the problem.

Now, Sir, I should like to say a few words about the home guards. The Chief Minister waxed eloquent on the organisation of home guards, so much so that he has threatened licence-holders of firearms that if they do not join the home guard organisation they will be liable to cancellation of their licences. I submit that this idea of organising home guards, if it were not tainted with the unworthy motive of creating a body from which they could get reception in places they may visit, was an excellent one. But the auspices under which these home guards are being organised make us utterly distrustful about their utility. If and when the apprehended crisis

comes these home guards are not likely to do their appointed duties because no precaution is being taken to prevent Fifth Columnists from infiltrating into the organisation. On the other hand, I think, the circumstances have created all possible facilities to the Fifth Columnists to infiltrate into the organisation. We entertain no delusion about this organisation and the Muslim Leaguers are not joining it. The prevailing circumstances have compelled us to organise our national guards who will not only guard the hearths and homes of Muslims but of all sections of the people. In these circumstances if the Government and the Chief Minister decide that the gun licences of persons who do not choose to join the organisation of home guards will be cancelled, then that will be taken a challenge by the Muslim community from this anti-Muslim Government.

As regards the political situation it is suprising that the Chief Minister has satisfied himself with raising an issue and not saying a single word about it. I realise the difficulties of the Chief Minister and his colleagues. They have to keep themselves on their *gadi* anyhow and therefore they are at a loss to give out what their policy is. They have to satisfy a number of parties with conflicting interests; they have to satisfy the British administrators; then they have to satisfy their supporters; they have also to satisfy at least that section of the public outside whose representatives in this House are the members of the Forward Bloc and the Congress, and they have also to satisfy the white section of this House who are giving them their support. Therefore, in this business of satisfying all these conflicting elements the Government were at a loss to find out what they should do.. That is why they are not prepared to give out their minds, and there is a complete silence in the matter of declaration of their policy by the Government. In these circumstances we have to depend on the public declarations of Ministers. They have declared that they do not agree with the policy of the Government of India in taking precipitate action and not allowing further time to Mr. Gandhi to mature his subversive plan. They also disapprove of the action that is being taken by the Government of India to quell and suppress this subversive movement. If that is the declared policy of the Government as a whole—we do not know, but at least from the utterances of some of the Ministers that appears to be so, then the question of all questions is whether the public or that section of the public who are still loyal and law-abiding are satisfied with this policy of the Government. Apparently their British masters are satisfied, but the public who are still loyal to the core are not at all satisfied. I do congratulate the Ministry on the successful rôle that they have till now played of catching fish without touching the water. যদি মাছ না ছুঁই পানি। But the trouble is that this nefarious game of shilly-shallying and hide-and-seek has roused the suspicion of the loyal and law-abiding section of the public. Unlike the British administrators who are satisfied, they are not satisfied that Mr. Subhas Bose is no longer cared for by his followers; they are not satisfied that Mr. Gandhi's influence has evaporated from the soil of Bengal. They feel that the province is full of Fifth Columnists. Nay, those who are perpetrating these acts of sabotage are far worse than the Fifth Columnists—they are the vanguards of the Japanese invasion army. The question of all questions is whether this half-hearted

policy of the Bengal Government is not an encouragement to the friends of the Japanese. If the answer is yes,—and I am sure there cannot be any other answer—can we not expect that the Ministry should no longer sit on the fence, they should forthwith adopt the only possible course, the only honourable course, that lies open to them of falling into line with the policy of the Central Government and applying themselves wholeheartedly to the clear, though perhaps disagreeable, duty of rounding up all the saboteurs and bringing back peace and order in this land and making its atmosphere as unwelcome to the Japanese as possible.

With these few words I submit that the statement of the Chief Minister is highly disappointing and that the policy of this Government is no policy at all and that that policy is leading Bengal to rack and ruin.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, practically at the very beginning of the Chief Minister's statement, we find the following remarks: "it is felt that it is of the utmost importance that the representatives of the people in Legislature assembled should have an opportunity of expressing their views on the measures that have been adopted for the safety of the country and its peoples from the point of view of their adequacy or otherwise."

Sir, as usual we find that the Chief Minister preaches one thing and practises another. Here he feels that it is necessary that the Legislature should have ample opportunity to discuss the various questions that have been affecting the people of this province and which vitally affect them. But we find—at least we were told officially by the Chief Whip—that this Legislature was only called for till today, that is to say, the original idea was that the House should sit only for five days. After great difficulty it has been possible to obtain some time for discussing these important questions, but I am very sorry to find that in spite of the fact that we were given to understand by the Government that we will be allowed to move motions on the speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, a number of our motions have been disallowed on the plea that they are special motions and the consent of the Minister concerned has not been obtained, that is to say, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has refused consent to have those motions discussed. Our grievances are that not only we are not given opportunity to discuss the various issues that arise out of the statement of the Chief Minister but the time that has been allotted for this discussion is extremely inadequate. We were given to understand that these motions would be discussed for three days. Later on, it was suggested that there should be a general discussion one day and the motions be discussed for two days only. You will find, Sir, that there are a number of motions for which notice has been given and the issues that have been raised there are of such important nature and so vitally affecting the people of this province—and, as has been said by speakers on the Opposition, members belonging to the Progressive Party, that they are also interested in this question—that I feel it will not be possible to discuss those questions in the two days that have been allotted for them.

Sir, there are at least five different issues that can be raised by the motions for which notices have been given and how can these five different issues be discussed in the House in two days' time?

Sir, after all, this Legislature has been summoned after five months after a tremendous amount of agitation in the press and representations for having a session of the Legislature. Then Government came out with the statement that they have got no business. Therefore if Government have no business, there is no reason why these days should not be allotted for non-official business. The only justification for curtailing days for non-official business is that Government business must have priority. If there is no Government business and if there are important questions that require to be discussed, then it is obvious that it is the duty of Government to allot days for non-official discussion. But in spite of the fact that this Government have got an overwhelming majority and that there is no danger that threatens them as far as the vote of this House is concerned, they are shy, they are afraid to give opportunity to raise issues and to discuss them. The only obvious conclusion is that they have either got an extremely guilty conscience or because they are afraid of being exposed and placed before the public as to the highhanded manner in which they have been carrying on the administration during these months.

Sir, the only sanction behind the democratic form of Government is that of public opinion and that public opinion can only be effective in two ways. One is that the members of the Legislature and Government have to face a general election, and we find that on account of the plea of war general elections have been postponed. On the other hand—again on the plea of war—all public meetings have been stopped. The press is gagged with the result that the one check which we have got on the Government against malpractices, against highhandedness and against autocratic action, is denied to the Opposition and to the public.

I feel, Sir, that as far as this Legislature is concerned, this is the one forum where it is possible to criticise Government, to make constructive suggestions and to place before the public the work that has been done by Government during this time. I submit, Sir, that it is the duty of Government to give adequate opportunity for discussion and allot sufficient number of days.

After all, Sir, after five months—having given up the precedent of the last 20 years of having a Monsoon Session—they hold a session for 10 or 15 days without having any chance of meeting again before the Budget Session. There is no reason why this session should not be prolonged and members given an opportunity to discuss. If, however, this was a plea that the Hon'ble Ministers are busy on account of the work that they have to do in carrying on administration, then one can understand. But Hon'ble Ministers—most of the Muslim Ministers—cannot tour in the districts because they cannot face a public meeting. As far as Hindu Ministers are concerned, they also cannot face public meetings because they cannot say things which they ought to say because the public will not listen to them. As far as

number one and number two of the Cabinet are concerned, most of their time is taken up in going up to Delhi, Lucknow and Meerut. Therefore, what we find is that instead of doing work in the Writers' Buildings, most of their time is taken up in looking after how to maintain themselves in office and in various acts of nepotism and jobbery.

Sir, let me take up the question of A. R. P. It has been discussed and I find that the Secretary of the Progressive Party has come up with the plea, which I knew has been put forward before the Party for a long time, that the Ministers are not responsible but it is the permanent officials who are responsible.

Sir, it is considered one of the meanest things that one can do to shirk one's own responsibility and put on the shoulders of one's own subordinates the mistakes which one commits himself. After all, I maintain that when Government decided to set aside the application of the Communal Ratio Rules as far as the appointments in A. R. P. were concerned, the Muslim members of the Cabinet sacrificed the Muslim community then and there by aggreeing to that decision. They knew in view of their past experience that once they agreed to give up enforcement of the Communal Ratio Rules, it was impossible to get Muslims appointed in adequate numbers. They have also done another thing—as a matter of fact, it is worse—which no Muslim Minister has ever done in the past, namely, they have admitted that qualified Muslims are not available for posts in the A. R. P. and Civil Defence services. Nothing can be more damning to the Muslim community than this admission on the part of the Chief Minister and his Muslim colleagues. If, on the other hand, they now turn round and say "No, the Communal Ratio Rules have not been abrogated", I feel their duty is absolutely clear. All appointments made against the Communal Ratio Rules have been wrongly made and illegally made.

Therefore I say that persons appointed in excess of the ratio to which their communities are entitled should be dismissed and in their places Muslims and Scheduled Castes should be appointed. According to the Communal Ratio Rules, the duty is open and clear as far as the Government are concerned. No amount of excuses, namely, "I am helpless or that Mr. Hands over whom we have no control is responsible for this" will satisfy or will excuse the conduct of the Minister concerned. Sir, if a Minister is not in a position to control his subordinate officers, then he has got no business to remain in office. There cannot be anything more pernicious than that a Minister shuld say "I cannot control my officers". Once a Minister feels like that, his subordinate officers can do what they like.

If I may digress for a minute, Sir, the same principle was followed by the Ministry as regards the incidents in Calcutta. According to the reports that have appeared in the press it has been suggested that at the party meetings the Chief Minister said that he knew nothing about the incidents in question and that it was under the control of the Commissioner of Police. For eight days shooting was going on, arrests were being made and *lathi* charges were taking place and the Chief Minister sat in Writers' Buildings and knew nothing of what was going on. This sort of thing has

got a two-edged reaction. On the one hand it permits the officer to commit excesses because you admit that you are not in a position to control him and once he knows that you cannot control him he is not afraid of you and can commit excesses. On the other hand it discourages honest officers who are discharging their duties faithfully because they feel that they can be let down by Government. It is impossible to have good administration if a Minister takes up this attitude and says "I am not responsible for the actions of my subordinates". Is it conceivable that these things could go on while the Chief Minister was remaining in Calcutta? He did not send for the Commissioner of Police and find out whether he was justified in doing what the Chief Minister did not wish to be done. After all it would not take more than half an hour to come in contact with the Commissioner of Police. Therefore, Sir, the suggestion that he was not in a position to control shows that he is not fit to remain in charge of the Home Department. (Cries of "Hear, hear" from the Opposition benches.)

Now, Sir, I come back to the A. R. P. Sir, from the Muslim community's point of view, this is a very serious question as far as the Muslim community is concerned. It is not merely a question of number of appointments; it is not merely a question of providing a number of young men. It is a question affecting the Muslims who live in the city of Calcutta and those cities and areas which are likely to be bombed and have air raids. It is these Muslims who will be deprived of the services of responsible Muslim officers who can look after them; and therefore it is not a question of providing employment to young Muslims, but it is a question that affects every Muslim that resides in this area, and I feel that in this matter the Ministry has been guilty of a grave neglect of duty and a serious dereliction of duty.

Sir, I find Mr. Badrudduja making a statement that he is not prepared to submit to the domination of the Ministry and if the Ministry are guilty he will not support them. I hope that at least as far as this statement is concerned he will abide by it. Although he gave pledges when he stood for election from his constituency, that pledge he has conveniently forgotten. (Mr. Syed Badrudduja: I have not forgotten the pledges.) No member is entitled to go against the pledges that he has given; he can otherwise take his chance by another election. But, Sir, it is not only Mr. Badrudduja. I appeal to the Muslim members of the Progressive Coalition Party to consider what grave injustice and harm they are doing to their community by acquiescing in this policy of allowing these posts in the A. R. P. to remain unfilled by the Muslim quota. I know that it affects the Scheduled Castes also and they are just as much interested. And when I am talking of the Communal Ratio Rules it applies equally to the Muslims as well as to the Scheduled Castes. There was, I submit, Sir, no justification for agreeing to set aside the application of the Communal Ratio Rules.

(At this stage the member reached his time-limit.)

May I have a few minutes more, Sir?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I wish I could give you more time. But my difficulty is that there is an election at 12 o'clock. Moreover, I will have to give some time to the Chief Minister. Therefore I hope that you will try to be as brief as possible.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The House expects that the Chief Minister would reply to all the points raised in the debates, and I do not see how the Chief Minister can finish his replies within the time that has been allotted to him. Anyhow that is his business.

Now, Sir, I will take up the question of the evacuees again. I will for the time being leave the A. R. P. problem. Perhaps I will get another opportunity to discuss it. Here again apologists on behalf of Government have said that Government had nothing to do with it. It is entirely a military affair. Sir, I submit that this is absolutely incorrect. The military had made the requisition and demand that it was necessary for a certain number of people to evacuate. I agree with this much. The Provincial Government could not stop evacuation of those people, but the duty of the Provincial Government in such cases is to see that adequate arrangements are made, that facilities are provided for their removal, that at least those people who are being driven away from their houses get some place to go and put their heads in, *i.e.*, some place to live in, that they get bullock carts by means of which they can remove their luggages. What was done instead? They were given only Rs. 5 or Rs. 10 as removal cost. Actually the amount that was given to the evacuees was hopelessly inadequate. What is worse is that it is said that this Government had no experience. When the evacuation of the Chittagong area took place, they knew what difficulties these poor people suffered from, and in spite of that when the question of evacuation of Feni and Tippera came, there was the same difficulty, the same mismanagement, neglect and the poor masses had to suffer very much. I, therefore, submit that this Government are absolutely callous as far as the poor masses are concerned. They have not given the slightest consideration as to how they can be given relief. Side by side let us see what the British Government is doing. You will see from today's paper, either the "Statesman" or the "Amrita Bazar Patrika," that a similar order had been passed either in West Yorkshire or East Anglia where the whole area has to be evacuated. Government said that arrangements had been made as to where those people would be accommodated. But what did the Government of Bengal do? They did not even take the trouble of going there and allowed these people to be turned out and made homeless. They did not see whether they were getting compensation; they did not even think as to where could they go without any provision, whether they were going to get any shelter or not, whether there was any sanitary arangement where they were going. In fact the people were made to make their own arrangements. They did not care to see whether they got proper notice, where they were going, how they would remain and whether they would have proper food or not, and what is worse is that even the crop which they had was not allowed to be taken away.

Sir, I submit that it was criminal negligence on the part of Government as far as the conditions in evacuated areas are concerned. It is true that there has been an improvement, but that is entirely due to the representation made by the League Party, and to the agitation that was carried on during this period by them pointing out the sufferings and the hardships that these people have undergone during that time. But as far as the Ministers are concerned they have been absolutely callous. They have not come forward and given any explanation.

Now, Sir, I come to the question of the subversive movement because the time is very short. I maintain, Sir, that here again the policy that this Cabinet is pursuing is dangerous. It is unfair to the people of this province because on the one hand they are telling that they are not responsible for what is being done. As far as the Muslim Ministers are concerned, naturally they are silent as the Muslims are not taking part in this movement. But as far as the Hindu Ministers are concerned so far as my knowledge goes not one of them has opened his lips to condemn this movement. Not one of them has said a word. I believe Dr Syamaprasad Mookerjee made one dubious statement, but as far as his two other colleagues are concerned they have not said a word condemning this movement. They have not asked the people to refrain from hooliganism, arson and violence that are being committed every day. How can you expect people to give up doing these things, when they find that their representatives are silent and that they condemn the policy of Government who have been taking steps to stop these things. How can you expect people to give up these things if they think this is what the Ministers themselves want. Sir, I maintain that it is dangerous, and that it misleads people. On the one hand the Chief Minister goes to Dacca and in a broadcast says that there should be no negotiation, there should be no talk of compromise until the whole movement is absolutely crushed. Sir, the chameleon goes on and changes colours and then signs the Mahasabha's representation for an immediate settlement irrespective of the fact whether the movement has been crushed or not, whether the movement has been given up or not. Sir, you may condemn the repressive policy. How is the country going to take it? How are the youngmen who are being shot going to take it? They are simply driving the youngmen to be shot at by the policy they are pursuing. They are simply encouraging and what is more it is unfair to the officers. As I said before, if the officers see that the Ministers are powerless they may exceed their duty and commit excesses. On the other hand weak officers, apprehensive officers may not take the action that is necessary because they are afraid that the Government will deny responsibility. They will feel that the Ministers do not want repression. They will feel that the Ministers do not want this movement to be stopped. Sir, I expect, I am sure the members of this House expect and the people of this Province expect that the Ministers, specially the Hon'ble Ministers belonging to the Caste Hindu community, will declare in this House unequivocally the policy which they want to pursue, and what it is they want? We at least expect this much from them that as they have been friends of Mr. Subas Chandra Bose they

should condemn this movement. I accept the statement that they do not belong to the "Forward Bloc". At least they had been friends of Mr. Subas Chandra Bose. They had belonged to the same party once. So we expect this much from them that they will condemn the propaganda that has been carried on by Mr. Subas Chandra Bose and tell the people not to follow that propaganda. The Ministers are expected to lead public opinion. Here we find that they are silent, silent in answering questions, silent in replying to debates, silent as regards one of the most serious movements affecting the people of this Province. They have got nothing to say because they cannot say anything.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: My esteemed friend, Mr. Suhrawardy, is an honourable man. It is true that not being any longer a member of the Cabinet he is not honourable by courtesy but he is honourable by nature. He is one of the nature's productions in whom the sense of honour, justice, integrity and honesty is so deeply ingrained that he does not become contaminated even when brought into close contact with the filthy atmosphere in the Stock Exchange and the Fatka market. When the whole of Calcutta was full of rumours about Ministers speculating in the Fatka market it was the same Shaheed Suhrawardy whose reputation remained unsullied. When it was freely talked about a Minister purchasing a Jaguar car without paying for it, it was Mr. Suhrawardy alone who could not come within the sweeping generalisation or condemnation. Mr. Suhrawardy is a champion of truth. The other day he invoked the sanctity of the holy month of Ramzan and said ——

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: On a point of order, Sir. Is the Chief Minister in order in making that reference in replying to the debate?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is in order in making a reference to the past speech of Mr. Suhrawardy.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Is he relevant to the debate?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. As soon as he becomes irrevalent I shall call him to order.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Only the other day Mr. Suhrawardy invoked the sanctity of the holy month of Ramzan and declared that I had made a false statement when I said that the Primary Education (Amendment) Bill was discussed in the Cabinet. I am not permitted to disclose Cabinet secrets, but I am permitted to say this much; that it appears from the extracts from the proceedings of the Council of Ministers that on 31st July, 1941, the Bengal Primary Education (Amendment) Bill was considered——

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: I should like to see the document. I am entitled to see it when an extract from it is being read.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Huq, what are you reading from?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am reading from notes.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: No extract can be read from a secret document.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: If that is so I shall break all rules and conventions and hand it over to the Deputy Speaker who has probably the right to incorporate in the proceedings in order to show the atrocious lie that was uttered by Mr. Suhrawardy.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: We are not going to listen to the ramblings of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order.

(Cries of "sit down", "sit down" from the Opposition Benches and cries of "shut up" and "go out" from the members of the Government Party.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you go on interrupting in this way there will be no option left to me but to adjourn the House. I hope that the Opposition members will bear that in mind. I have repeatedly requested the members that when the Leader of the Opposition is speaking and when the Leader of the House is speaking there should not be any interruption. But Mr. Rahman, you have been continually interrupting the Chief Minister. A continual interruption in that fashion is not permissible and that is highly unparliamentary. I hope the Leader of the Opposition will kindly help me in maintaining order. The Chief Minister may now continue with his speech.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: On a point of personal explanation, Sir.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: What is your ruling, Sir, about the use of this document?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has said that he is not using the document.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: He was reading out of a file which was considered to be confidential. He cannot do it, I maintain, and if he reads from a file the House has the right to see the document.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have asked the Hon'ble Chief Minister and he says that he was reading from a note and not from a document.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, I submit that he did not say that: in this I beg to differ from you. He said that he was reading from the proceedings of a Cabinet meeting and he will put the whole lot in the proceedings of this House. Sir, my point is that he cannot do that.

Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA: Why is Mr. Siddiqi afraid of that? Has he not the courage to face it?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am asking the Hon'ble the Chief Minister whether he was reading from an official document or not.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: No, Sir, it is not a document.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, the Hon'ble Minister previously said that he was reading from an extract from the Cabinet proceedings. If that is done, that extract from the document must be made available to the members for inspection. That is the privilege of the House and I stand upon that privilege. Now, Sir, if he wants to say that he is not reading from any portion of a document, that portion must not find a place in the proceedings.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will see to that after I have seen the official proceedings.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I still maintain, Sir, that matter was never discussed in the Cabinet.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I will not read from the document but I will hand it over to the Deputy Speaker for his edification.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: With great respect to the Chair, Sir, I should like to know through you what is that document about he first read from.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Fazlur Rahman, you are obstructing the normal proceedings of the House in this way. You are also disregarding the orders of the Chair.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: I should only want to know from you, Sir, from what document he read first.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The document is an extract of notes from the procedings of a Cabinet meeting.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: On a point of order, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister says that these are the extracts from the proceedings of a meeting of the Council of Ministers. I appeal to you, Sir, to see the notes taken by the shorthand-writers only two minutes ago and then you will find that he is now altering his previous statement.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Why are you afraid of it?

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: I am not afraid of it, Sir. But the Hon'ble Minister shall not be allowed to change his words.

Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: On a point of order, Sir. You have given a ruling that when the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the House stand on their legs, they should not be interrupted. My point is that if the gentleman over there speaks of things which are outrageous and contrary to facts, are we not entitled to interrupt him?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already said that interruption is permissible, but continued interruptions which obstruct the regular proceedings of the House are not permissible.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I think I have said enough to convince the honourable members that there was a Cabinet meeting of the previous Government in which that measure was considered and a decision arrived at.

Now, Sir, various points have been touched in the course of the debate, but I regret to say that the time at my disposal is not enough to give a detailed reply to the points that have been either discussed or which, I think, ought to be discussed in view of the fact that the situation is serious enough requiring a solution of the problem to be found out and not utilising this opportunity for personal recriminations. Sir, it has been said that I am concerned with a certain supply centre in Calcutta. I may state the fact that I have got a shop to be held in some rooms in my house and I am not charging any rent with the result that the public are enabled to get their foodstuffs at cheaper rate than elsewhere. I have not done this under the cover of night or stealthily. It is open to the public and hundreds of persons come to my house, police inspectors and inspectors of the department, and they see things going on. In this respect I think I have done nothing wrong and my conscience is clear. But if my colleagues and members of the House think that the steps I have taken are unauthorised or illegal, I will close the shop, but I can tell the House that it will cause hardship to the public.

Now, Sir, Mr. Suhrawardy has said that we have given bribes to students in order to organise reception parties or other things. I may say here and now that this calumny against students could only have been uttered by those whose hands are not clean and who themselves have been guilty. I believe that the Muslim students, the Hindu students, the youths of Bengal have got still enough honour in them not to be bribed to take part in political organisations——

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am certain that I have never used the word "bribe".

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: All right; but you have said that they have been paid from the public fund. I may say in defence of students who are not here that they are not prone to accept illegal gratifications for any purpose whatsoever.

Now, Sir, I come to more serious aspects of certain questions which have been raised, and I begin with the question of taking responsibility for the actions of the officers of the Provincial Government in the matter of dealing with disturbances, the unfortunate disturbances, which have tarnished the fair name of Bengal. I say, Sir, that the position is absolutely clear. There is a question of principle and a question of application of that principle in the matter of carrying out the details. The Ministers certainly take responsibility for the principles that have been enunciated, but if somewhere in the mofassil some official somehow, in some manner, does something which militates against that principle, Government will take note of that and deal with that officer in the manner he deserves. But I will ask members of the Opposition to seriously consider the present position, whether they think that it would be advisable and in the public interest to discuss too much this very delicate question of responsibility of Ministers *vis-a-vis* the officers who have got to carry out their duties under the most trying conditions and under the most provoking circumstances or whether it is not enough that they should refer and ask the Ministers to do their duty, whether they feel it their duty to help the Ministers to carry on the administration in the most troublous and trying times and whether it would not be proper to utilise these opportunities of discussion not in recrimination but in offering helpful advice.

Then honourable members made reference to the question of food problem in the province. It is not Bengal alone that is suffering from shortage of foodstuffs. Bengal should not have been unhappy over the rice problem had it not been the fact that various provinces in India including Ceylon are now in a state of rice famine. Although we have pleaded and pleaded most earnestly with the Government of India that we have not got enough for our own needs and requirements, the Central Government—and let me say, with great justice also—have appealed to us on at least humanitarian considerations to help our own people, the Indian brethren, in distress in other parts of India and in Ceylon. Remember that we have to depend on other provinces for various commodities. We cannot sit tight over rice because we know we have got to go to the Central Government for helping us in other matters. I can tell my friends that the rice problem is certainly very acute. But we think the problem is being daily discussed and investigated by a member of the Indian Civil Service of great experience and undoubtedly also helped by a large staff of Indian officers. They are in constant contact with men of the rice market and with rice merchants. They are in close contact with the Government of India and everything that is possible and can be done is being done and we, the Ministers, are satisfied that so far as our human efforts go, we have done our best and if in any matter my friends feel that we have failed and something else ought to be done, I can

assure them that their suggestions will be welcomed and gratefully welcomed and we will try to accept those suggestions as far as possible.

Sir, as regards the question once again raised by my friend the Leader of the Opposition about not giving suitable opportunities to discuss these problems, I may say that so far as I can see up to now we have not received helpful suggestions. What are the major problems that confront us—problem of the low price of jute, problem of high price of rice, problem of civil defence, problem of giving compensation to evacuees and so forth and last but not least the problem of appointments in the A. R. P. services.

Now, Sir, as regards A. R. P. services, I do not mean to say anything at the present moment because tomorrow and the day after I know we have to go into details and answer various questions that will be raised. I therefore do not wish to take up the time of the House on a matter which will be discussed threadbare either tomorrow or the day after. But as regards the complaint generally by the Leader of the Opposition, I may point out to him that if we concentrate on these points and try to throw out helpful suggestions—of course, criticisms will be welcomed also I do not think that the two days we have allotted would be insufficient. We are waiting to see how far we can get on with the Primary Education Bill and if that is finished quickly, I can say that we will allot one more day for the discussion of my statement on the various problems of the province. But I do not think that the Opposition can have it in both ways. They cannot fill up the time by opposing simply for the sake of opposition a Bill which was theirs and which could have been the law of the land if they were not intransigent and then, at the same time, ask for opportunities for villifying us. (Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Again untruths!) There are certain persons with whom it is difficult to deal and my friend Mr. Fazlur Rahman is one of them.

Sir, I now come to the question of the remark that has been made by the Leader of the European Group. I admit, Sir, that my statement is meagre and somewhat inconclusive on certain points. I have deliberately not gone into these things. I know points will be raised and as far as possible I shall take the House into confidence and make as much disclosure under the present circumstances as prudence will allow and rules will permit me.

Then, Sir, I thank my friends who have expressed their sympathy for us for the manner in which we have tried to carry on our duties and I hope that in the discussions that will be carried on tomorrow and the day after we will be able to concentrate more on solid work than on personal abuses and counter-abuses. It is easy to abuse, but remember that abuse may recoil on you if you persist in it too much. It is human nature to be provoked and once that is done business will certainly suffer. I therefore make an earnest appeal to my friends of the Opposition to write out on a piece of paper all the bad things that they may wish to say about me and I can try to correct myself. But it is no use trying to take up the time of

the House by making unnecessary abuses at random which will take up the time of the House which may be otherwise utilised and usefully employed in discussing the present critical situation. Sir, I do not wish to say anything further at least today.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I adjourn the House, I may announce that Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu, a member of the House, has been put under arrest.

Adjournment.

It being 11-53 a.m.—

The House was adjourned till 8-45 a.m. on Tuesday, the 22nd September, 1942, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 22nd September, 1942, at 8-45 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (MR. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY) in the Chair, 8 Hon'ble Ministers and 176 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Contractors, Messrs. Bonar & Co.

*44. **Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether Messrs. Bonar & Co. was an approved contractor of Government; and

(*ii*) whether this Company was once disqualified by the Government?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Government have again given them some contracts?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the time when it was given; and

(*ii*) the names of the present directors of this Company?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed): (*a*)(*i*) Messrs. Bonar & Co., are on the list of contractors of the Presidency Circle of this Department.

(*ii*) The firm has not been disqualified by Government.

(*b*) and (*c*) (*i*) The Company being approved contractors were given contracts from time to time.

(*ii*) Not known, as this information is not required for the purposes of this Department.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state whether the firm was ever made disqualified?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has mentioned that it has not been disqualified.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: I want to know whether it was ever made disqualified.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: No; read the answer given in (*ii*), viz., "the firm has not been disqualified by Government."

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: My question is whether it was ever made.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I can take it as a notice. I cannot say that offhand.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether one of his brothers is a Director of this firm?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: This is news to me. Dr. Abdul Motaleb might know it.

Method of recruitment of Jailors.

***45. Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state the procedure observed for the recruitment of Jailors in different jails in the Province, particularly in the Alipore and Presidency Jails?

(*b*) Is it a fact that as a rule European Chief Jail Warders are promoted to the post of Jailors?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there has been any exception to this rule?

(*d*) Is it a fact that in the Alipore and Presidency Jails Chief European Jail Warder is always appointed as Jailor in supersession of the claims of Deputy Jailors?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) The honourable member is referred to the provision in rules 241 and 269 of the Bengal Jail Code, Volume I, a copy of which is in the Library. Appointment of Jailors for these two jails only is ordinarily made from the rank of European warders.

(*b*) and (*d*) Yes.

(*c*) No.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to answers (*b*) and (*d*) why this invidious distinction is made in the case of appointment of Jailors?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: There is a distinction, and I must admit it is an invidious distinction. (Interruptions.) Will you permit

me to finish first? As I have said, there is a distinction which we may agree to call an invidious distinction. The distinctions between Indians and Europeans are being removed gradually. It cannot be removed all in one day.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABATY: মাননীয় সহসভাপতি মহাশয় আমার বিশ্বাস এই সভা চালাবার প্রয়োজনীয় সভ্য সংখ্যার অভাব হয়েছে সুতরাং সভার কাজ চল্‌তে পারে না।

(After a count was taken by the Secretary, Mr. Deputy Speaker announced that there was the requisite quorum.)

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: With reference to answer (*a*), viz., appointment of Jailors for these two jails only is ordinarily made from the rank of European warders, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why this distinction is made with respect to these two jails only, why the Deputy Jailors were not allowed to be promoted, and why the European warders only were allowed to be promoted into the rank of Jailors?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: It is very difficult to give a detailed reply, but I take it that these two jails sometimes contain inmates of a turbulent character who it is thought can be controlled only by the Europeans, because they are themselves very turbulent.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government contemplate to remove this distinction and keep the appointments of Jailors from the Deputy Jailors open to the Indians, particularly to the Bengalis?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: As I have said, I shall do my best, and I entirely agree with the learned member that time has come when this invidious distinction should disappear.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there are any Deputy Jailors in these two jails?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I cannot say that offhand. I understand there are, but if my friend is very anxious to have the information, I will give him.

Circular regarding formation of Home Guards.

***46. Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Government have issued any circular or instructions to the District Magistrates or Subdivisional Magistrates in Bengal regarding the formation of Home Guards; and

(*b*) if so, will the Hon'ble Minister kindly lay a copy of the same on the Table?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A copy of Home (Police) Department Memo. No. 1379Pl., dated the 27th April, 1942, is laid on the Library Table.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government issued any other circular or instructions apart from this departmental memorandum?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: A circular was issued in which District Officers were asked to slow down the enlistment of Home Guards in order to ascertain whether Muslim Leaguers were genuinely anxious to join the movement. It has been found that in many places Muslim Leaguers are sincerely anxious and willing to co-operate and by another circular that has been rescinded and therefore it is not in existence now. At the present moment all District Officers have been asked to go ahead and to recruit to the Home Guard members of all communities of all political shades of opinion in order to strengthen the movement.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in the original circular they directed their District Officers not to appoint any Muslim Leaguer as Captain or Vice-Captain and further that the executive of the local Mahasabha should be consulted in the selection of the personnel?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: My answer is emphatically in the negative, but I take the honourable member into confidence and say that what was done was that letters were sent enquiring of District Magistrates, as I have said, whether Muslim League Secretaries and Presidents were coming forward and whether it was a sincere move or a mere pretence. For the sake of all those enquiries some instructions were sent but, as I have said, no circular was issued and the only circular that was issued to slow down enlistment has been withdrawn.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: In view of the answer that has been given by the Hon'ble Minister, will he be pleased to lay on the table those connected papers, viz., the circulars and instructions that were issued to the District Magistrates and the Subdivisional Officers?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, as I have said, all the correspondence that has been passed has been countermanded by the last circular and, therefore, I am not prepared to lay before the House the entire file on the subject. I can tell the House that as far as I can see from the agenda paper the question of Home Guards is going to be debated in this House in pursuance of a special motion. I would ask the honourable members to consider whether it would not be better to wait for a detailed discussion instead of putting questions which would only take up the time of the House.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he will give us an asusrance that he will place those original instructions issued to the District Magistrates when the debate on the Home Guards will be taking place to-day in this House?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Well, that will depend on whether the discussion is a helpful discussion or merely a pretence to have a fling at the Ministry. If I find that any member is sincerely anxious to get information for the purpose of improving the organisation, I shall be only too glad to take him into fullest confidence. Let me assure the House that at the present moment of grave anxiety for the safety of the Province the institution of Home Guards is of supreme value It may be——

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: We want an assurance. We do not want a statement.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: What do you want?

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: We want the original instructions.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Well, that you will never have. What you can have I am giving you.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: On a point of order, Sir——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What point of order? You want an assurance and he is giving you the assurance.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: I do not want any statement in reply My question was a direct question and a direct answer should have been forthcoming, and the Hon'ble Chief Minister should not have wasted the time of the House.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: He cannot give a direct answer.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: It is for the Minister when questioned to decide what answer he is to give. If his answers are unsatisfactory, you may give him zero mark. It is for him to give the answer. You cannot suggest to the examinee what answer he should give.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: The House is entitled to your protection. Now the manner in which the Hon'ble Chief Minister is answering supplementary questions or making his statements is discourteous to the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. I have allowed him to answer and he is doing so.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: My learned friend knows that in making telephone calls after one call is finished we have to wait ten seconds before making another call. Here questions have been put in such overwhelming rapidity that it is difficult for us to answer all at a time. Therefore we are taking breath to find out what the question is and what answer we are to give. You don't want answers to be given at random, and I do not want to close the questions. I am only saying "await the debate" when I shall be ready to take you into my confidence. I want a full dress debate on such an important question as this, and I want helpful suggestions. I realise that you cannot give helpful suggestions unless you are in possession of facts. I shall try to put you as much in possession of facts as possible, but you must deserve them.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRAVARTY: The finishing touch of the Hon'ble Chief Minister's answer is excellent.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The Chief Minister takes ten seconds to consult the Hon'ble Finance Minister.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: For four and a half years I could do without consultation, but now I want consultation!

Proposal for the change of rules and nomenclature of the Bengal Junior Civil Service.

***47. Mr. ABDUR RASCHID MAHMOOD:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the proposal of the change of the nomenclature of the designation of the members of Bengal Junior Civil Service has been accepted by the Government?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the proposal is likely to be given effect to and what the proposal is?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the propriety of calling them "Deputy Collectors (class II)" on the analogy of the Education and Irrigation Services? If not, why not?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I trust that my honourable friend will agree that the examination of any proposal for a change in the nomenclature of a service may await the end of the war.

Secondary Education Bill.

***48. Maulvi MD. ISRAIL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether Government intend to take up the consideration of the Bengal Secondary Education Bill, 1942, during this session?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. Abdul Karim): It is not possible to take up the Secondary Education Bill during this Session for causes beyond my control.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he made a statement that the Select Committee would be called on the first week of August?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: That I did. As I have already said, the causes were beyond my control. I shall tell the House what are the causes. The Select Committee sat for the first time on the 13th, 14th and 15th July. At that time, after three days' consideration the date was fixed for 3rd August. It so happened that during this interval and without my knowledge two members of the Congress Party requested the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker to make a reference to the Advocate-General on the question which was raised by them in the Committee on the 13th, namely, whether a Minister from the Upper House had any right to preside over the Sub-Committee of the Lower House. That was done without my knowledge. On the 28th July I got intimation from the Legislative Department that as a matter of fact the opinion of the Advocate-General was sought by the Deputy Speaker and the former was of opinion that I was not competent to act as Chairman His opinion was that a member from the Upper House could not preside at a meeting of the Select Committee constituted by the Lower House. That was the opinion which the Advocate-General gave, and it was communicated to me not by the Deputy Speaker, but by the Legislative Department.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: May I know the date of that communication?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: 28th of July. Therefore as I had no time and as the meeting was fixed for 3rd August, I had to intimate members by telegram and immediately after that I issued a Government communiqué stating the reasons why it had been postponed *sine die*. Thereafter I entered into a long correspondence with the Advocate-General giving my opinion against his, and after a long correspondence all the correspondence that passed between me and the Advocate-General, his opinion and my opinion have now been submitted to the Deputy Speaker for his opinion because it is his opinion that counts in the matter, he being the final authority to decide on the question of interpretation of rules; the matter is now lying with the Deputy Speaker. As soon as his decision is obtained, further proceedings will be taken in hand.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when all the papers were submitted to the Deputy Speaker?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: At the beginning of this month.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: When does the Hon'ble Minister expect the decision of the Deputy Speaker?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: It is a matter entirely in the hands of the Deputy Speaker.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has met the Deputy Speaker since the communication was sent to him?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: He has informed me that he is considering my case.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if after the decision of the Deputy Speaker he will bring the Bill forward to the Select Committee of this House?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Yes, if the Deputy Speaker decides that I am competent; but if I am declared incompetent, the only course that will be open to me will be to withdraw the Bill frm this House and introduce it in the Upper House.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Government subsidy to "Nabajug".

25. Mr. S. A. SALIM: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Chief Editor of the *Nabajug* has been granted subsidy by Government?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the amount that has been so paid; and

(*ii*) the head under which the expenditure has been charged?

MINISTER in charge of the FINANCE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee): (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any money has been spent out of the provincial exchequer as subsidy to the *Nabajug* newspaper?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: No, except money paid for advertisement.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the rate of advertisement charges in the case of *Nabajuga* newspapers is much higher than that for any other newspaper?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: I have no information on that point.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is illegal to subsidise any newspaper?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: If you like I shall refer the matter to the Advocate-General for his opinion.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether during the last Ministry subsidies were paid to the newspaper *Azad*?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Yes, when we were in the Opposition.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is prepared to lay a statement on the table showing the payments made to the different newspapers including the *Nabajug*?

The Hon'ble Dr. SAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: If the honourable member asks us to do so, I shall furnish the information if notice is given. This question relates to subsidy, and the question the honourable member is asking is in regard to money paid for advertisement.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has just said in a reply that apart from payments made in respect of advertisements, no subsidy has been paid, and that is why I ask if it is a fact that the rate of advertisement for the *Nabajug* is higher than that for any other newspaper. My point is whether he is prepared to examine the question and place facts before the House.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Certainly.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Will the Hon'ble Minister answer if I ask a short-notice question now?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: I may ask for notice.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the total amount paid to the *Nabajug* for advertisement exceeds Rs. 30,000?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: I am not aware of that.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The Hon'ble Minister stated, Sir, that if a question was put to him on the subject he will be pleased to answer; but to my question as to whether he will accept a short-notice question he says he may ask for notice after the short-notice question is put. I ask, which of these two statements is correct. Was it at the request of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister that he was a little bit less generous now than he had been before?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister says that both his answers are correct.

(At this stage unstarred question No. 12, which was held over, was called.)

Chakhar Fazlul Huq College.

12. Mr. M. FARHAD RAZA CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number of students on the roll of the Fazlul Huq College at Chakhar;

(*b*) the number of them that are—

(*i*) Muslim,

(*ii*) Scheduled Castes, and

(*iii*) Caste Hindus;

(*c*) the number of students who have been awarded fee concessions;

(*d*) the number of them that belong to the Muslim community; and

(*e*) the total amount of (1) recurring and (2) non-recurring, grants made by Government to this College during the year—

(*i*) 1940-41, and

(*ii*) 1941-42?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) 454 (in March, 1942).

(*b*) (*i*) 210.

(*ii*) 61.

(*iii*) 183.

(*c*) 411.

(*d*) 188.

(b) (i) 1940-41— Rs.

(1) Recurring: Grants-in-aid from July, 1940, to February, 1941 4,752

(2) Non-recurring: From the Hon'ble Chief Minister's discretionary fund 500

Imperial grant through Calcutta University ... 1,500

(ii) 1941-42—

(1) Recurring: Grant-in-aid from March, 1941, to February, 1942 7,582

(2) Non-recurring: For building hostels, library, furniture and gymnasium 66,600

Imperial grant through Calcutta University ... 2,000

I promised to give some additional information about this question with regard to (*d*), and I have now to add this: Most of the students have been provided with free lodgings through the good graces of the Governing Body.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware of the fact that Government rules do not permit the sanction of concession to more than a certain percentage of students?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I know that. But in this case, according to the expression of the ex-Finance Minister, this was a case in which ultra-special consideration was given, raising the ordinary percentage of free studentship from 15 to 50.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why were not the same concessions given to any other college?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: If any specific case comes to me for consideration, I will see to it.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in the mufassal areas Muslim students are generally poorer than the Hindu students?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Certainly.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for the granting of more concessions to Hindu students in preference to Muslim students?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: In this particular case no special preference has been given to the Hindus. Out of the total

number of free studentships, the amount has been split up just to enable the college authorities to do evenhanded justice to poor boys, as many as possible.

Mr. K. NOORUDDIN: The Hon'ble Minister has said that in this particular case no special preference has been given. Will he be pleased to state in which case special concession has been given?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: The thing is, in this particular case the Hindus has been given three concessions, but in the case of Muhammadan students there is free studentship, half-free studentship, quarter-free studentship in addition to other facilities.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that when the Chief Minister brought this project, he did so as an experiment to see whether boys are attracted to a college established in a rural area, and has that experiment succeeded?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: We think the experiment has been successful.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Does the Hon'ble Minister consider that by subsidising all the students, or practically all the students, such experiment of a college in a rural area can succeed?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: That will depend upon the result of this experiment. This experiment may be continued for a shorter time or a longer time.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: In view of his answer to question (*e*) (*ii*) where he stated that Rs. 76,182 has been spent for this college for the year 1941-42, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if this abnormally high expenditure is commensurate with the number of students reading in that college?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: The estimate orginally was much less, but owing to war conditions and the price of materials having gone up very high, about 36 per cent. of the original estimate was added to the estimate.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Has the Hon'ble Minister considered the question whether the finances of Bengal can stand the strain of a few more such colleges?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: It is a matter of opinion.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Has the Hon'ble Minister considered the question?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I have considered that.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Has the college been created as a nursery for the supporters or the supposed supporters of the Hon'ble Chief Minister?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I think this college has been intended as a pilgrimage for students.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in the last I.A. Examination, one of the students of the college secured the 15th place in the University?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: 16th place.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Minimum price of Jute.

*39. **Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department aware that jute sells at present in the mufassal as follows:—

(*i*) Top at Rs.3-8 to Rs.4-8,

(*ii*) Middle at Rs.2-8 to Rs.3-8, and

(*iii*) Bottom at Rs.1-8 to Rs.2-8?

(*b*) Is the Government considering the desirability of fixing Rs.10 as the minimum price of jute in Bengal and taking necessary steps for keeping it in force?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca, Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department): (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Will the Parliamentary Secretary pleased to state what is the present price of jute of the three classes?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: If the honourable member wants the price of jute on the 17th of this month, I am able to give it.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Yes, that will do.

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: I have got a list here.

	Top.	Middle.	Bottom.
	Rs.	Rs. a.	Rs. a.
Dacca district—			
Dacca ...	8	6 12	4 0
Narayanganj ...	8	6 12	4 0
Narsinghdi ...	8	6 12	4 0
Tarpasha ...	8	6 12	4 0
Tippera district—			
Chandpur ...	8	6 12	4 0
Hajiganj ...	8	6 12	4 0
Ashuganj ...	8	6 12	4 0
Mmensingh district—			
Nikhlidampara ...	8	6 8	4 0
Kishoreganj ...	8	6 4	3 12
Netrokona ...	8	6 0	3 8
Purbadhala ...	8	5 8	3 8
Sharishabari ...	8	6 8	4 4
Ilashin ...	8	6 8	4 4
Faridpur district—			
Charmuguria ...	8	6 8	4 4
Goalundo ...	8	6 8	4 4
Japsha ...	8	6 8	4 4
Pabna district—			
Nakalia ...	8	6 8	4 4
Sirajganj ...	8	6 8	4 4
Cooch Behar district—			
Haldibari ...	7 12	6 12	4 0
Jalpaiguri district—			
Jalpaiguri ...	7 12	6 12	4 0

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state the source of these figures?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: From reputable firms. If the honourable member wants, I can give the names of the firms.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: What are the names of the firms?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: Landale & Clarke, J. Thomas, R. Sim & Co., Chakramal Tolaram.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state whether Government made any attempt to collect these figures through the Commissioners, the District Magistrates and the Sub-divisional Officers?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: I am not aware of that.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state whether the prices are for *tosha* jute or *jat* jute or for what kind of jute?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: Unfortunately, I am not acquainted with the quality of jute.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: I mean not the quality but the kind of jute—whether it is *tosha* jute or *jat* jute.

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: This information is not available.

Price of Jute.

*40. **Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department aware that at present the jute-growing agriculturists have been put to much difficulty as a result of very low prices of jute?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps do the Government propose to take to raise the price of the crop?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: (*a*) The whole question of jute prices in the mufassal is confused by the facts—

(1) that they are generally different from Clive Street prices;

(2) that quotations from various sources differ very widely;

(3) that quotations for "average" prices cannot be compared with those for "graded" prices for Tops, Middles and Bottoms; and

(4) that prices in different districts vary as against each other and from time to time according to the varying degrees of difficulty in obtaining transport to Calcutta.

(*b*) The Government has considered very carefully the question of a minimum price for jute and has been in communication with the Government of India on the question. They are prepared to act as soon as action becomes

necessary but the action to be taken will depend on the circumstances when the question arises. At present the chief difficulty is that of transport and everything possible is being done to deal with that difficulty.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: With reference to answer (*a*), will the Lady Parliamentary Secretary state whether she means to say that jute in the mufassal area is not selling at a lower price?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: Sir, I could not follow the question.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: My question was whether the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the department was aware that as a result of the low prices of jute the agricultural jute-growers have been put to great difficulty, but the answer is not given in a direct way. My question is this: With reference to answer (*a*), does the Lady Parliamentary Secretary mean to say that jute in the mufassal area is not selling at a lower price?

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয় আমি ক্রমাগত: শুন্‌ছি "Lady Secretary, Lady Secretary" ওরা কি Parliamentary Secretary কথাটা উচ্চারণ কর্‌তে পারেন না?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: She is Parliamentary Secretary.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Sir, the answer that has been given by the Parliamentary Secretary will not satisfy my object and that is no answer to my question. My question is this: Whether the Parliamentary Secretary means to say with reference to answer (*a*) that jute in the mufassal area is not selling at a lower price on account of which the jute-growers have been put to much difficulty?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I myself cannot follow your question.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: With reference to answer (*a*), will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state what are the difficulties in the matter of transport that are making it impossible for the Government to take up the work?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: That has already been answered. The difficulty is one of transport.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: But what are the difficulties encountered by the Government in the matter of transport?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: Want of steamers and want of wagons.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: In answer (*a*), the Parliamentary Secretary has stated that the Government are prepared to act as soon as

action becomes necessary. Do Government consider that this is the proper moment or rather the time has passed for fixation of the minimum price in view of the depression in the market?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: Government consider that the time has not yet passed. Government is prepared to take action when circumstances require it.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state whether she is aware that most of the jute has been brought into the market by now and that the agriculturists have to part with almost 50 per cent. of their jute in order to purchase rice and other necessaries of life?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: The Government of Bengal have taken up this question with the Government of India and they are doing their best to improve the position of jute.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: With reference to answer (*b*), namely, that Government are prepared to take action as soon as action becomes necessary, will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state what are the additional circumstances which Government think necessary for action to be taken?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: Government will take necessary action when circumstances will demand it.

Unstarred Question No. 21.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Sir, yesterday I promised to reply to a question put by my ex-colleague Mr. Tamizuddin Khan, about the appointment of Assistant Engineers. He asked me a question as to whether there was any Muslim candidate available, and I said that I would let him know later. We wrote to the Public Service Commission several times. The Public Service Commission has, in fact, said that they cannot find Muslim candidates, but even then we have again referred this to the Public Service Commission to form a panel of Muslim candidates for appointment as temporary engineers.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: With reference to answer (*a*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the five temporary posts were all advertised? I beg to remind the House that only for four posts advertisement was made last year.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: So far as my recollection goes, whether temporary or permanent, all posts were advertised.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: May I know in which paper these posts were advertised?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I cannot say that offhand. I want notice.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: With reference to answer (*b*), namely, ".....owing to the non-availability of Muslims non-Muslims were appointed to the posts," will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any Muslim candidates applied for these posts and, if so, their number?

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: I am sorry, Sir, my friend did not hear me when I replied to Mr. Tamizuddin Khan's question. I said that though the Public Service Commission has informed us that Muslim candidates are not available, we have asked the Public Service Commission to form a panel of Muslim candidates who might qualify themselves for these posts.

Unstarred Question No. 23.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, this is a very important question, and we would like it to be answered by the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur of Dacca.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right; it is held over.

Point of Privilege.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise on a point of personal grievance as well as privilege. My status in this Assembly has been assailed in the past, and it was so assailed by the Secretary of the Progressive Party the other day who even denied me the right of being a Muslim and capable of sympathising with Muslim grievances. I have been called a "foreigner" in this House. (Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA: There is no doubt about it!)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point?

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: It is a point of personal grievance or a point of privilege or whatever you may call it. It is about my privilege or status in this House and outside it. The same word was used by a member of the Congress Party when Sir Azizul Haque was our Speaker. I raised the point and he promised to consult the practice in the House of Commons. The information that came back to him from the Clerk of the House of Commons was that the Speaker there considered the word "foreigner" as applied to a member of the House, as entirely unparliamentary. In fact, a case that Sir Mohammed Azizul Haque pointed out to

me was that when a Semitic brother of mine was called a foreigner in the House of Commons, the honourable member walked across the House——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I know all that. What do you want me to do?

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: I do not want to take up the time of the House. Possessing as I do a British passport and having taken the oath of allegiance to His Majesty in this very House, am I not in order in suggesting to you, when this word is used against me, to rule it out as unparliamentary and ask the honourable member who used it to take it back?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I appreciate the manner in which you have brought this matter to my notice. I know that on a reference made by Sir Azizul Haque, the Clerk to the House of Commons in reply wrote that the term "foreigner" is unparliamentary. Such expressions or epithets as "foreigner" or "exploiter" are unparliamentary. I have already explained to the members of this House that any such personal reference made in heat would be unparliamentary. I would also tell the House that a member is not entitled to send a challenge to another member; that is also unparliamentary. I would ask the members not to use expressions like "foreigner" or "exploiter". But you must remember that expressions, much more serious and much more objectionable, have been used in spite of the fact that I always discourage and deprecate their usage. Members should remember that they have got two duties to do, viz., (1) while making speeches, and (2) while listening to speeches—on both the occasions, they have to observe certain rules, but to my surprise I find that members while speaking do not observe the rules and members listening to the debate also do not observe the rules that they should. I hope members while speaking would not use any expression in heat which would be unparliamentary. I maintain that the words "foreigner" and "exploiter" are unparliamentary.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Then, will you please ask the honourable member to withdraw that expression?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall see the relevant portion and do the needful.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: May I draw your attention to the expression used by the Hon'ble Chief Minister with reference to the statement made by Mr. Suhrawardy? He used the expression "atrocious lie," which I submit is unparliamentary and must have escaped your notice. The House knows and every one in Bengal knows the unenviable reputation of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: An expression like that is unparliamentary, and I maintain that those expressions have been used in heat and would in normal circumstances not have been used.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Will you please ask him to withdraw that expression?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall see the relevant portion and do the needful.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: After all that has been said, I rise to make a statement by way of personal explanation. So far as I am aware—I have got great respect for my friend Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi —I know he is a genuine Bengali, and I am satisfied that he is a Bengali, bred and born. Therefore I welcome him as a Bengali brother.

As regards the expression "atrocious lie" Mr. Shahabuddin has said that I have got an unenviable reputation throughout Bengal, but I would ask him to remember that if he pelts another with stones he must be prepared to receive them, and that if he gives an inch another will take an ell.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: He must withdraw that expression. Instead of——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a matter that will be decided by me.

SPECIAL MOTIONS.

On the Hon'ble Chief Minister's Statement.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now Mr. Suhrawardy will move his motion.

YUSUF MIRZA: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

YUSUF MIRZA: The business should be taken in the order in which it is printed and circulated.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: I rise on a point of order, Sir. According to the Rules of Business, these motions should be treated like resolutions and if that contention is conceded, then I submit that under the rules no resolution can be taken out of its turn unless a requisition in writing is made to you by 70 members. Not only will a requisition be necessary, but also the consent of the Speaker, in this case the Deputy Speaker, and also the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the department to which the motion relates is also required. That being the legal position, I submit that you cannot allow Mr. Suhrawardy to move his motion out of

turn. What I have submitted is contained in rule 93. It says, "Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-rule (2) of rule 20, on the written requisition of not less than seventy members, that a resolution be taken out of its turn on a day allotted for the discussions of resolutions of private members, the resolution shall, with the consent of the Speaker and the Minister in charge of the department to which the resolution relates be given precedence on that day over all other resolutions for which a ballot has been held." Now, Sir, in this case this is a day which has been allotted for the discussion of private members' business. Although you have circulated the agenda saying that the list relates to Government business, I submit that these motions would have been Government motions had the motions been amendments to any motion moved by Government. In this case the Hon'ble Chief Minister made a statement. The statement was discussed in this House. He did not move any motion with regard to that statement. So these motions are not amendments to that statement. Only it has been arranged that private members will have the privilege of sending in motions for discussing the points raised in the statement. Therefore, these motions cannot be called motions relating to Government business. These motions submitted by private members being only resolutions, we are going to discuss these resolutions of private members.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I quite follow your point.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Today has been allotted for discussion of the resolutions from private members. That being so, having already issued the agenda paper in which the order of precedence has been stated, you cannot take any motion out of its turn without the requisites being complied with. Sir, you have been a member of the Calcutta Corporation. You are aware——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Biswas, your point is that under the rules I am not entitled to take up these motions out of turn.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Sir, I should like to speak on this point of order. The Deputy Speaker has circulated the agenda in a certain order, but we find now that item No. 1 on the agenda paper is not going to be taken. I submit that it is impossible to do business if the order in the agenda is liable to be upset at the last moment in this manner.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I submit, Sir, the point of order does not arise at all because the rule referred to by the honourable member refers to resolutions which are balloted and the rule does not refer to special motions which have got to satisfy a condition, namely, that the consent of the Minister concerned has got to be obtained. As far as this special motion is concerned, that rule does not apply at all. It only applies in the case of ordinary resolutions which have got to be balloted and when a member has obtained a place by ballot, you cannot change that unless by the special procedure laid down under the rules. I submit that as far as special

motions are concerned they have got a peculiar position. For a special motion only the consent of the Minister concerned is necessary, and having obtained that consent this question of taking up the motions as they appear in the agenda paper cannot arise. Sir, we are now concerned with the change of the order in the agenda. Here again we were given to understand from the very beginning, as far as these motions are concerned, we will be allowed to take them up in the order we may choose. You, Sir, have always given me to understand that whenever I shall raise that question you will allow me to do so. These are party resolutions tabled by the Opposition and the Opposition has the right to bring them up in the order they like. If the understanding from the beginning had been that the Government would be prepared to allot sufficient time to take up all the motions, then I would have no objection whatsoever to the suggestion made by the Whip of the European Group. Let Government agree that an opportunity will be given to move and debate on all the motions of which notice has been given, and then this side of the House will be quite prepared to abide by the order in which they appear on the agenda paper.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, may I be permitted to point out that the only section which refers to special motions is rule 95 which says, "Save in so far as is otherwise provided by the Act or by these rules, no discussion of a matter of general public interest shall take place otherwise than on a resolution moved in accordance with these rules, except with the consent of the Speaker and of the Minister to whose department the motion relates," and "No motion shall be admissible if it relates to a matter which is not primarily the concern of the Provincial Government." So far as these motions are concerned, they have satisfied rule 95 because the Opposition has got your consent, and I have also given my consent. The question that now arises is one of priority, and I submit that rules 20 and 93 are to the point and cannot be ignored. Rule 20 relates to the arrangement of business on the agenda and says, "(1) At times when Government business has precedence, the Governor may arrange that business in such order as he thinks fit." Sub-rule (*2*) of the rule says, "The relative precedence of notices of Bills and resolutions given by private members shall, from time to time, be determined by ballot in such manner as the Speaker may direct. The order of priority as determined by the ballot shall, subject to the provisions of rule 93, be final." Now, Sir, the special motions—you can call them by any name you like—are nothing but resolutions brought before the House and therefore the order of precedence shall not be determined according to the whims and caprices of anybody but by means of ballot. If there was no ballot, that has been a defect, but that defect cannot be remedied by allowing these rules to be ignored. I therefore submit, Sir, that unless section 93 applies, namely, that no less than 70 members by a signed petition ask you to change the order of precedence, and over and above that, the Minister concerned gives his consent, rule 20 shall inevitably prevail, that is to say, the order as determined by ballot shall be the order in which resolutions have been entered. If there has been no ballot, I submit that has been a defect and

you can immediately now proceed to a ballot and if that ballot is not satisfactory to the Opposition, we can at least say that we are not responsible for it. In this connection I wish to make one point absolutely clear. I myself want a full dress debate on the motion which Mr. Suhrawardy is anxious to make before the House, in the course of which I want the various matters to be cleared. The only difficulty with me is that I did not know till I came to the House this morning that that motion would be taken up first. I have not brought the papers with me, and I do not think I will be able to ask the supporters of Government to speak on this motion by giving them sufficient materials on which to take part in the discussion. For these reasons, Sir, the non-observance of the order would be a breach of the mandatory rules which we must all follow, and therefore the motion cannot be taken up out of turn. It is a different thing altogether as to how this order has been made out. It may be, Sir, according to your discretion: it may be according to the direction given by the Chief Whip either of the Government or of the Opposition: it may be that it has been determined by Government: but once it has been determined, once it has received your approval, and once it has been circulated, the order of precedence as given on the agenda paper now before the House is final, and I submit most respectfully that rules 20 and 93 read together debar anyone from asking for a departure from that order, nor does it allow you to change that order of priority. In these circumstances I do ask the Opposition to consider it, but if they cannot proceed with the other motions reserving this one for tomorrow but insist on this motion, then I submit, Sir, you ought to take a ballot and then proceed to see what would be the order of precedence.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: With regard to this point of order I think rules 20 and 93 do not apply to special motions and therefore no question of ballot can arise in this connection. The question of ballot arises only when non-official resolutions and non-official Bills are concerned. But these motions are of a peculiar nature, because they are special motions on the statement which I allowed the Hon'ble the Chief Minister to make under rule 116, and these special motions I have allowed under rule 95 of the Assembly Procedure Rules. If I had considered these motions as resolutions by private members, certainly I would not have sent these motions to the Hon'ble Minister concerned for his consent. I sent these motions to the Hon'ble Minister for his consent and he has given his consent. So far as these special motions are concerned, the question arises out of a statement made by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister. Therefore it must be treated as Government business and not non-official business. This order has been made by me and the Hon'ble Minister has said in the first paragraph of his statement that he is prepared to give an opportunity to the members of offering any criticisms which they think desirable and necessary. So I will give an opportunity to the Opposition to have their say in this matter first. I rule that rule 93 does not arise; rule 20 does not arise. It is a peculiar case. As far as I remember, no statement of the Chief Minister has been debated upon during the last four years and a half. I treated the statement of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister as a motion and

all these motions as special motions under rule 95. Therefore, I will try to accommodate the Opposition, and in all fairness it is my duty to protect the right of the minority. I, therefore, allow Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy to move his motion.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: I rise on a point of order, Sir. Sir, you have ruled that rule 93 will not apply to these motions, but the point remains that you have to proceed with certain rules. You have got power under rule 116 to make directions in matters for which no provision has been made. That is the only residuary rule under which you can proceed with the business today. Having conceded that I request you, Sir, that you should not pass any orders directing the conduct of business today which shall not be consistent with the rules made hereunder. Sir, rule 116 says, "The Speaker may, by orders not inconsistent with these rules, provide for matters for which no provision is made." I submit, Sir, if you have to pass any order that order must be consistent with the rules passed by the Assembly. What is the spirit of the rules? The spirit of the rules is where there are several motions or several Bills, whatever they may be, an order of precedence must be determined; but how? By ballot. This is rule 20. Rule 20 does not apply to resolutions alone. This rule 20 pertains to motions submitted by private members and also relates to Government business. Rule 20(2) says, "The relative precedence of notices of Bills and resolutions given by private members shall, from time to time, be determined by ballot in such manner as the Speaker may direct." Sir Nazimuddin says that special procedure has to be adopted with regard to motions because they are special motions under rule 95. You also ruled that special procedure has to be adopted with regard to these motions. May I know what kind of procedure you are going to adopt?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order, Mr. Biswas. You have no right to challenge the verdict of the Chair. I will not allow a discussion on that. I have already said that in the absence of any specific provision in the rules I decide that I will give priority according to my discretion. I have allowed Mr. Suhrawardy to move his motion.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that the non-application by Government of the Communal Ratio Rules to the appointments made in the various paid A.R.P. services and the Fire-fighting Services, resulting in the almost complete exclusion of Muslims and the Scheduled Castes from those services, should be disapproved.

Sir, I am not very hopeful, in spite of the most cogent arguments and figures which I might place before this House, of obtaining a favourable verdict from the supporters of the Government, for has not recently a party meeting of the Progressive Coalition Party been convened for the purpose of considering the expansion of the Cabinet and the appointment of more Parliamentary Secretaries? But still, Sir, I think we should do our duty

to the public and place before them such facts as there are at our disposal. It is difficult to get at those facts and I am placing those before the House. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will correct me if there are any misstatements or understatements or overstatements and place before the House the correct figures.

Sir, in regard to Calcutta it is difficult to know the precise position, but so far as we have been able to gather it appears to us that nearly all, if not all, of the higher paid appointments have gone to Caste Hindus and in the lower paid appointments some crumbs have been thrown to the Muslims and possibly none to the Scheduled Castes. So far, Sir, as we have been able to get, of posts carrying Rs. 200 like the posts of Staff Officers, of 27 such posts 6 only have gone to Muslims; out of 231 posts of Post Wardens carrying a pay of Rs. 75, only 32 have gone to Muslims. (Cries of "Shame! Shame!" from the Opposition benches.) Out of Sector Wardens carrying the very humble pay of Rs. 30 with practically no qualifications worth the name, out of 3,164 appointments only 411 have gone to Muslims, although according to the Communal Ratio Rules at least 1,500 should have gone to the Muslim community. The Muslims are not even thought fit to get their quota as messengers. That carries a pay of Rs. 30. Out of 546 appointments only 140 go to Muslims. Similarly, Sir, we can go on amplifying indefinitely. In the Rescue Service out of 5 Staff Officers only 1 is a Muslim, in the House Protection Service some justice has been done there—out of 28 Staff Officers 14 are Muslims, but nowhere do we find, Sir, that the Muslims in any particular cadre, other than menials, have had the benefit of the abrogation of the Communal Ratio Rules and have received a higher number of appointments than 50 per cent. Out of the 9 appointments of Depôt Superintendents carrying a pay of Rs. 250 only one is a Muslim; and out of 7 Deputy Superintendents also only one is a Muslim, and so on. On the whole, if we leave out the personnel of the Rescue Service the pay of which is mainly Rs. 25, we find that out of 4,410 appointments only 646 go to the Muslims (Cries of "Shame! Shame!" from the Opposition benches.) A very valuable document setting out facts and giving materials has been circulated by a party called "Council of Action"—a party which has come into being because one cannot continue to remain quiescent under the constant castigation of this Ministry and the supercilious manner in which the Chief Minister is carrying on the administration relying upon his artificial majority. Sir, in Howrah out of 82 posts of Wardens carrying a pay of Rs. 75 only two are Muslims. Out of 850 Wardens carrying a pay of Rs. 30—the European Party who are the staunch supporters of the Ministry will kindly listen and see how justice is being meted out to the Muslim nation; they are the greatest upholders of this Ministry—only 40 are Muslims and the rest Hindus. Messengers—188 Hindus, only 6 Muslims. In the Casualty Service out of 400 First-Aiders only 12 are Muslims. The Officer-in-charge, pay Rs. 275, 12 Medical Officers (Assistant Surgeons), pay Rs. 150, 24 Medical Officers (Sub-Assistant Surgeons), pay Rs. 100, 6 Staff Officers, pay Rs. 150; 3 Deputy Superintendents, pay Rs. 125—all are Hindus, there is not a single Muhammadan. Are there no doctors available, no

Sub-Assistant Surgeons available in the Muslim community? Then there is the Street Fire-Fighting Service and so on. We can go on multiplying instances. I have got figures of the 24-Parganas which are also illuminating. The Controller carrying a pay of Rs. 600. Of course he is a Hindu. The Deputy Controller is there drawing a pay of Rs. 500. Of course he is a Hindu. In the Warden Service there is the Officer-in-charge drawing a pay of Rs. 325 and, of course, he is a Hindu. Then Air Raid Wardens (Honorary). There are 15 of them; all Hindus. There are four paid appointments carrying a pay of Rs. 200. Of course all of them are non-Muslims. Of the Staff Officers carrying a pay of Rs. 150, 16 are Hindus and only one Muslim. Even in the Clerical Department, out of 21 clerks carrying a pay of Rs. 35 only one is a Muslim. In the Communications Service, the Officer-in-charge, Communications (what special qualification he possesses one does not exactly know) draws a pay of Rs. 400, and of course he is a Hindu. Then there is one Messenger Commandant drawing a pay of Rs. 200 and he is a Hindu. One post of Staff Officer carrying a pay of Rs. 200. Of course he is a Hindu. Out of 13 Supervisors and Intelligence Officers drawing a pay of Rs. 100 only one is a Muslim. Of the clerks on Rs. 60, 36 are Hindus and only 4 are Muslims, and out of 3 clerks on a pay of Rs. 35, not one is a Muslim. We could go on like this, but what is the use of going on further. In the case of Muslims we have zero, zero, zero, zero, everywhere.

Now, Sir, I do not know where we shall go for redress. It is said that His Excellency the Governor has got a special responsibility in regard to the minorities of this Province, but to whom shall the majority of this Province turn for redress, when the administration is in the hands of renegades from the Muslim community and the Hindu Mahasabha? Where are the Muslims to go for justice? We have to appeal to the public in the last resort. But the public is made up of various groups. What does Muslim public opinion matter to the Chief Minister? He has been discarded by the Muslims and he has made up his mind to crush the Muslim community! It does not matter to him what the Muslim public thinks. The Muslim League has preached communal harmony, and communal harmony has been maintained, and everything is satisfactory and the Chief Minister takes the credit for it. Sir, the gentleman who wandered about the country arousing the worst passions of the Hindu community, and causing riots, is at present sitting on the ministerial benches, and therefore why should the Chief Minister consider about the Muslim community? Why should His Excellency consider the claims of the Muslim community since the Muslim Leaguers are behaving like good boys? As regards the Hindus, they have got everything they want, and more than they deserve. As to the Scheduled Castes representatives, the poor depressed classes, when the time will come, the Chief Minister will say, "I shall give you a few nominations." If they become obstreperous, the Chief Minister will say, "I shall take some Parliamentary Secretaries from your community, and I shall give you one more Minister," and then he will fondly count upon their support. Then, Sir, comes the party itself. We have been informed, Sir, that the party, the Progressive Coalition Party, has lodged

a protest, but this is confined to their own party room. That protest can easily be resolved. I have already pointed out that today the party is going to consider the appointment of more Parliamentary Secretaries and the expansion of the Cabinet. The Chief Minister throws crumbs to the party sitting over there as if the party is so demoralised, so low, that things of this nature will make it alter its views. Sir, this is the opinion which the Chief Minister holds regarding the members of his own party!

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. Mr. Suhrawardy, you cannot cast any reflection on a party as a whole.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I say, Sir, that the party is not so demoralised, and I call upon it to rise to its fullest height, and reject this insidious attempt at demoralisation on the part of the Chief Minister and the members of his Cabinet.

Sir, Mr. Badrudduja stated yesterday that if the Ministry was not able to give a satisfactory answer, the party would vote against the Ministry on this question. Sir, Mr. Badrudduja is a very loyal follower of the Chief Minister and in a very impassioned speech yesterday he extolled the services which the Chief Minister alleges he has renederd to the Muslim community. This is not the time nor the place when I desire to challenge that statement. Mr. Badrudduja outlined the policy of his party, because he believes that the Chief Minister has got a very satisfactory answer, and will be able to satisfy if not this House at least himself; and that is all that is required. If the Chief Minister can put forward some sort of a plea, however disingenuous it may be, Mr. Badrudduja will be satisfied and say, "Well, how can we go against this Ministry?" The Chief Minister will explain thus, "When the appointments were made I was sleeping, or I was roaming from place to place. I am trying to bring about a world compromise. I am writing letters to Chiang Kai Shek, to the President of the United States of America and to the Premier, Mr. Churchill. I am in correspondence with all these big people. I cannot look at these small items of administration These things are matters that must be left to others. I cannot work. The best thing I can do is to repudiate them. I have written notes. I always write notes I have said what you have done is very, very bad and it ought to be altered. What more can I do. I am helpless."

I want him to admit, if he dares, that this Ministry, this Cabinet is helpless before an officer of this Government, who chooses to defy all the rules and the orders of Government solemnly laid down. The Chief Minister said yesterday that "some officer, somewhere, in some remote corner, at some time, in some way, somehow in a place without dimensions may do something against our policy. We shall look into it and rectify it." But on this question when the time has come for rectification the Chief Minister can do nothing but write notes. Here is an officer who is working under the orders of somebody or under some Ordinance and who shirks his duty and makes these appointments. What can the Chief Minister do except to write notes. Mr. Badrudduja does not know that whenever the

Chief Minister wants to create evidence and throw the blame on others he writes notes. We know the notes of the Chief Minister. From time to time he used to write notes and circulate them, but never brought them up for discussion; he was satisfied with having created evidence of his solicitude. I am certain that that is going to be the Chief Minister's apology on the floor of the House. Is he or is he not going to apply rule 13 of the Communal Ratio Rules which provides a remedy where anything has been done against these rules, against the decision solemnly taken by the Cabinet of which the Chief Minister was at one time a part? He and the Nawab Bahadur of Dacca are common factors in the last Ministry and the present Ministry. The Nawab Bahadur and the Hon'ble Chief Minister are parties to these Communal Ratio Rules and these provide that if any officer has disregarded these rules and has not carried out his duty, then the appointments shall be cancelled and new appointments shall be made in accordance with the Communal Ratio Rules.

Sir, the Chief Minister in his valuable propagandist pamphlet, the *Bengal Weekly*, once gave a dissertation on efficiency and how the officers of Government have utilised or misused the plea of efficiency for the purpose of keeping down Muslims and taking away their rights. Sir, the Chief Minister made a statement—it was a wonderful statement and if I may be permitted to offer my thanks to the Chief Minister for the contribution, I beg to do so. But that was written when the Chief Minister was under different influence. What has happened today under the influence of his colleague on the right—I mean the Finance Minister? The Muslims have suddenly become inefficient and the officers of Government under his patronage are permitted to crush the Muslim rights in this way on the plea of inefficiency.

Sir, I call upon the Hon'ble Chief Minister, if he has a particle of that good sense left which he sometimes exhibited in the last Cabinet, to rise in his stature at the present moment and undo the great wrong which he has done, which he and his colleagues have done, to the Muslim community. Regarding the party supporting Government, I call upon them all to shake off their complex and support this resolution which I am sure must find an echo in the heart of every true Muslim, every true nationalist, every true Scheduled Caste and every person who is anxious to see that good relationship is established between the Hindus and the Muslims. It is not by trampling down the rights of the Muslim community that you will be able to govern satisfactorily in this Province. The day of retribution has not yet come. The Chief Minister may yet get up and throw out challenges to the Opposition and tell us, "Unless you behave like good boys I will not give you a satisfactory answer." A statement like that made in any other House would have evoked a severe reprimand from the members themselves, but he has been allowed to escape.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. As you are making a reflection on the whole House, I cannot allow you to proceed. I shall get a copy of the proceedings from the reporters and expunge that portion.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Regarding the thing that happened in this House, honourable members have a right to criticise. If the fact is wrong, then your ruling may be correct, but if the fact stated by Mr. Suhrawardy is not wrong, then any member of the House has a right to express his opinion. Our words shall not be expunged unless they militate against any definite convention or rule of procedure in this House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have not followed what Mr. Suhrawardy has said. I have followed him. He has made a reflection on the whole House, and I am not going to allow it.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: If the matter had come up before the House for consideration and I had said that the House had not done its duty, then I submit that your ruling would have been right. Such a statement would have constituted a reflection on the House. But when the matter is not before the House, I am surely entitled to say that the House would take exception to such remarks of a Minister. The matter is not before the House, and there is no reflection yet cast upon the House. However let that pass.

How long is this camouflage administration going to continue? After the horse has bolted, what does the Minister do? He just writes notes. I do beg of him to pay a little more attention to the administration of which he is the Chief. Why does he career about the country? Take the jute question which came up the other day. How is the Chief Minister going to deal with it? He will say, "I have not done anything. I am now going to Delhi, so support me." One fine morning he says, "I am going to see what the results of the evacuation policy have been and how the people have been hard hit——

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Sir,——

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am not going to give way to the honourable member. So the Hon'ble Chief Minister goes to Noakhali. He does not even get out of his saloon, and pretends that he has been to the evacuation area and seen things for himself.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Suhrawardy, from A.R.P. don't go to jute.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am merely pointing out that the whole administration is a camouflage. The sooner the Chief Minister pays a little more attention to the administration of this Province the better it will be. Let him see that the rules are properly observed and that officers disobeying rules are taken to task. Then and then alone he has got the right to roam about the country and push himself if he is so inclined, although without any credentials.

Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN: Sir, may I draw your attention to——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you on a point of order, Mr. Zaman?

Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN: Yes, Sir, I rise on a point of order. আমি জানতে চাই—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order, that is no point of order.

Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN: On a point of order, Sir, আমি জান্‌তে চাই ওঁরা যে রকম করে রেগে গেছেন সেটা ফাট্‌কা বাজার বন্ধ হয়েছে এবং ইস্পাহানি কোম্পানির contract বন্ধ হয়েছে বলেই কি? (Interruptions from the Opposition Benches.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. There is no point in your point of order. Mr. Suhrawardy.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Therefore, I say, Sir, he cannot do that; he has got no right to go about the country and waste public money in this fashion.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: মাননীয় সহ-সভাপতি মহাশয়, আজকে যখন A. R. P. সম্বন্ধে আলোচনার একটি প্রস্তাব কাগজে ছাপানো দেখলাম সেই সময় সত্যি সত্যি আমার খুব আনন্দ হয়েছিল এই ভেবে যে, যে জরুরী ব্যবস্থা এবং প্রয়োজনীয় বিষয় দেশের সম্মুখে উপস্থিত হয়েছে সে সম্বন্ধে আলোচনার সুযোগ দিয়ে আমাদের বিরুদ্ধ দলীয় সভ্যগণ দেশের সত্যিকারের একটা মঙ্গল করেছেন। কারণ A.R.P. সম্বন্ধে আলোচনার যথেষ্ট আবশ্যকতা আছে, প্রয়োজনীয়তা আছে এবং আমি মনে করি বর্ত্তমান অবস্থায় যেসব সমস্যা সব চাইতে জাতীয় জীবনের পক্ষে অত্যাবশ্যকীয় হয়ে দাঁড়িয়েছে, তার মধ্যে এই A.R.P.র সমস্যা সর্ব্বশ্রেষ্ঠ।

A.R.P. সম্বন্ধে আজ যদি আমার বিশিষ্ট বন্ধু শ্রীযুত Suhrawardy সাহেব বক্তৃতা না করে বিরুদ্ধ পক্ষের অন্য আর কেউ করতেন তা হলে এ বিষয়ের প্রতি যথেষ্ট সুবিচার করা হতো বলে আমি মনে করি। কেন না Suhrawardy সাহেবের জীবনে চপলতা ছাড়া আর কিছু দেখিনি; জীবনে কোন বিষয় গভীর এবং গম্ভীরভাবে গ্রহণ করবার উপযুক্ততা তাঁর নেই। সে শিক্ষা, সে দীক্ষার মধ্যে তিনি লালিত এবং পালিত হন্‌নি। আজ Suhrawardy সাহেব না করে যদি এ বিষয়ে প্রথম বলতেন Sir Nazimuddin সবাই আমরা খুসী হতুম। কারণ যতদিন Sir Nazimuddin গভর্ণমেণ্টের সঙ্গে সংশ্লিষ্ট ছিলেন, সেদিন থেকে আজ পর্য্যন্ত আমি অনেক ভাবেই তাঁকে দেখবার ও জানবার সুযোগ পেয়েছি; তাঁর মধ্যে একটা কঠোর বাস্তব জীবন আছে। তিনি কঠিন হতে পারেন, কিন্তু সেই কঠিনতার আবরণে তাঁর মধ্যে একটা বাস্তব জীবনের রূপ পরিস্ফুট হয়ে ওঠে কিন্তু Suhrawardy সাহেবের সমগ্র জীবনের ইতিহাসের পেছনে কোন রাজনৈতিক অভিজ্ঞতা নেই, তাঁর পিছনে কোন রাজনৈতিক মতবাদ নেই, কোন রাজনৈতিক অভিব্যক্তি নেই; তাঁর পিছনে কোন রাজনৈতিক আদর্শবাদ নেই, একমাত্র ব্যক্তিগত সুখ, সুবিধা ও স্বার্থই তাঁর জীবনযাত্রার মানদণ্ড। কাজেই তাঁর কাছ থেকে এই বিষয়ের মত গুরুতর এবং প্রয়োজনীয় বিষয়ের আলোচনায় আমি খুসী হতে পারিনি। আমি জানি, আমি পরিষদের সভ্যদের অবগতির জন্য জানাচ্ছি যে এই A.R.P. সমস্যা নিয়ে মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর মধ্যে মাননীয় শ্রীযুক্ত সন্তোষকুমার বসু মহাশয়, আমার বিশ্বাস, সবচেয়ে বেশী পরিশ্রম করেছিলেন।

যাতে এই A.R.P. ব্যবস্থা সুগঠিত হয়ে উঠতে পারে, সুপরিচালিত হতে পারে এবং যাতে একমাত্র প্রয়োজনীয়তা এবং উপযোগিতার উপর নির্ভর করে এই প্রতিষ্ঠানটি দেশের মধ্যে গড়ে ওঠে—তার জন্যে তিনি অনেক কিছুই করবার চেষ্টা করেছিলেন। আপনারা জানেন যে A.R.P. Department আজকের সৃষ্টি নয়; যখন Suhrawardy সাহেব এখানে মন্ত্রিসভার আসন অলঙ্কৃত করে বসে থাকতেন তখন থেকে এই A.R.P গঠিত হয়েছে।

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: May I say, Sir, that the honourable gentleman does not know that these people are being paid since the advent of this Ministry?

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: Shut up!

Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI: On a point of order, Sir. Is the honourable member in order in using the expression "shut up"?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: My difficulty is this. Mr. Suhrawardy rose on a point of personal explanation. The procedure of offering a personal explanation is that it should be given after the conclusion of the speech of the honourable member who is in possession of the House unless the honourable member gives way. If the honourable member does not, he cannot be interrupted in the midst of his speech. Here, it is really a matter of exchange of some words between some members. But I maintain that the expression "shut up" is not parliamentary.

Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI: Withdraw the words "shut up".

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I gave no personal explanation, Sir. When a mis-statement is made in the House you sometimes do allow a degree of latitude to members to correct that misrepresentation. I do not know whether the honourable member actually used the words "shut up," but if he did so and you hold that that expression is unparliamentary, I ask you that you should in all fairness ask the honourable member to withdraw that expression.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Like yourself, Mr. Suhrawardy, I could not hear what expression he actually used. After going through the proceedings if I find that he did use that expression I will ask him to withdraw.

(At this stage when Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas rose to speak, some of the members of the Opposition used the expression "shut up.")

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: On a point of order, Sir. If the expression "shut up" is unparliamentary and if my friend Mr. Chakrabarty is asked to withdraw it, then the honourable members belonging to the Opposition who have been shouting just now, uttering the same expression, should also withdraw. I saw Mr. Syed Abdul Majid using the same expression.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: No, I did not.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already ruled that the expression "shut up" is unparliamentary, and I ask Mr. Chakrabarty to withdraw that expression.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়, Suhrawardy সাহেব দুঃখিত হয়েছেন জেনে আমি সত্যি সত্যিই দুঃখিত। আমি ইংরাজি ভাষা ব্যবহার করিনি। "Shut up" ইংরাজীতে থাকতে পারে, কিন্তু আমি Polish ভাষায় কথা বলেছিলুম। Polish ভাষা Suhrawardy সাহেব বুঝতে পারেন নি কিন্তু আমি ভেবেছিলুম হয়ত তিনি বুঝতে পারবেন!

আমি যে কথা বলছিলুম: আজ যদি Sir Nazimuddin সাহেব এ বিষয়ে বক্তৃতা করতেন আমি নিশ্চয়ই সুখী হতুম। (A VOICE: করবেন, করবেন।) Suhrawardy সাহেব জীবনে একমাত্র নিজের ব্যক্তিগত ব্যবসা ছাড়া এবং সে ব্যবসাও নানা প্রকারের সু ও কু বিষয়ের ব্যবসায় ছাড়া, A.R.P.ই হোক বা দেশ বা জাতির অন্য কোন প্রয়োজনীয় বিষয়েই হোক, সংস্পর্শেও যাননি। A.R.P. কিম্বা দেশরক্ষা, বা অন্য কোন গম্ভীর বিষয়ে মনঃসংযোগ করবার উপযোগী ও আবশ্যকীয় মানসিক দৃঢ়তা, গাম্ভীর্য্য বা দক্ষতা তার নেই। যে সময় তিনি মন্ত্রী ছিলেন তখন তিনি মন্ত্রিত্বের কাজ ছাড়া আর সব কাজই করতেন। কার্য্যের চাইতে অপকার্য্যের সঙ্গেই তার পরিচয় বেশীদিনের ও বেশী ক'রে। মানুষ মাত্রেরই জীবনে এমন একটা মুহূর্ত্ত দেখা দেয়, যখন সে নিজের ব্যক্তিগত সুখ-সুবিধা এবং স্বার্থের আলোচনা ছেড়ে একটু উর্দ্ধে দাঁড়িয়ে সমগ্র জাতির মুক্তির কথা ভেবে থাকে। শ্রীযুত সোরওয়ার্দ্দির জীবনে আজো সে মুহূর্ত্ত দেখা দিল না দেখে আমি ব্যথিত। (Opposition side : আহা হা।) এ, আর, পি বিভাগে মুসলমান সম্প্রদায়ের ভেতর থেকে যথেষ্ট সংখ্যক লোককে চাকুরী দেওয়া হয়নি বলে আমি সত্যই আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখিত। কিন্তু এ-বিষয়ে কাউকে অভিযুক্ত করবার পূর্ব্বে দেখবে কার বা কাদের দোষে এ কাজ হয়েছে। কংগ্রেসের সভ্য হিসেবে একথা আমি জোরের সঙ্গেই বলতে পারি যে, আমাদের সমগ্র রাজনৈতিক অস্তিত্বের মধ্যে একথা বলবার সুযোগ কেউ খুঁজে পাবেন না যে আমরা কোন দিন এই কথা বলেছি যে হিন্দুর জন্য এই কর বা মুসলমানের জন্য এই কর, বিশিষ্ট কোন সম্প্রদায়ের পক্ষে কিছু বলা বা করা আমাদের ধর্ম্মবিরুদ্ধ। আমাদের ধর্ম্ম জাতীয়তা। জাতীয়তা সাম্প্রদায়িক স্বার্থ চিন্তার অপেক্ষা রাখে না। আমাদের চিন্তা অখণ্ড জাতিকে নিয়ে—আমাদের কামনা অখণ্ড জাতির মুক্তি কামনা। হিন্দু, মুসলমান এবং অন্যান্য সম্প্রদায়ের সমবায়ে যে বিরাট জাতি ভারতবর্ষে গড়ে উঠেছে, সেই অখণ্ড জাতির মুক্তি চিন্তাই আমরা করে এসেছি এতো দিন। ইংরেজের মুখ-পাত্র চার্চিচল থেকে আরম্ভ করে অনেকেই এই কথা প্রচার করতে আজ উঠে পড়ে লেগেছেন যে যেহেতু ভারতবর্ষে জাতীয়তার কোন অস্তিত্ব নেই আছে শুধু সাম্প্রদায়িক অস্তিত্ব এবং যেহেতু হিন্দু ও মুসলমানের স্বার্থ পরস্পর-বিরোধী সেই হেতুই ওখানে কোন জাতীয় শাসন-ব্যবস্থা প্রবর্ত্তিত হতে পারে না। কংগ্রেস এই নির্জ্জলা ভণ্ডামীর মুখোস ছিঁড়ে দিয়েছে। কংগ্রেসের পক্ষ থেকে এ কথা ঘোষণা করা হয়েছে যে একমাত্র জিন্না বা মুসলমান সম্প্রদায়ের হাতেও যদি আজ ইংরেজ এ দেশের শাসন-ব্যবস্থার দায়িত্ব ছেড়ে দিতে রাজী হয়, কংগ্রেস সানন্দে সে ব্যবস্থার সঙ্গে সহযোগিতা করবে। সোরওয়ার্দ্দি সাহেব জাতিকে বিভ্রান্ত করবার জন্য মিথ্যা প্রচার করতে পারেন—কিন্তু গত অর্দ্ধ শতাব্দির ইতিহাস সাক্ষ্য দেবে যে আমরা মুসলমান স্বার্থের বিরোধী

নই। আপনারা জানেন যে ভারতবর্ষের রাষ্ট্রীয় মহাসভার সভাপতি মৌলনা আবুল কালাম আজাদ একটা বিবৃতি প্রসঙ্গে জানিয়েছিলেন যে এ, আর, পির মতো প্রয়োজনীয় বিষয়ের সঙ্গে সহযোগিতা করতে কংগ্রেসে কোন আপত্তি উঠবে না। তাঁর অনুমতিক্রমে এবং তাঁর উপদেশ অনুসারে বাংলার মন্ত্রী শ্রীযুক্ত সন্তোষকুমার বসু মহাশয় সর্বপ্রথমে A. R. P.'র সঙ্গে যাতে সমস্ত বেসরকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের সংযোগ স্থাপিত হয় তার ব্যবস্থা করেছিলেন। তাতে সমস্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানের লোক ছিলেন: Muslim Leagueএর আমার বন্ধু Abdur Rahman Siddiqi ছিলেন; Congressএর তরফ থেকে আমি ছিলাম এবং শ্রীযুত কিরণশঙ্কর রায় ছিলেন; কর্পোরেশনের মেয়র ছিলেন; European Groupএর শ্রীযুত Hendry ছিলেন এবং বিভিন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠানের অনেক সভ্য সেই non-official committeeর সভ্য হয়েছিলেন এবং এই অত্যাবশকীয় এবং অতি প্রয়োজনীয় প্রতিষ্ঠানকে সুষ্ঠুরূপে এবং প্রয়োজনীয়রূপে গঠিত করবার জন্য আমরা আপ্রাণ চেষ্টাও করেছিলাম। কিন্তু আপনারা ভেতরকার অনেক কথাই জানেন না। মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয়কে অভিযোগ করে লাভ নেই। এটা আমাদের দুর্ভাগ্যের ইতিহাস। তিনি ইচ্ছা করলেও সমস্ত কাজ করতে পারেন না। আজকে শ্রীযুত Suhrawardy সাহেবকে জিজ্ঞাসা করি: তিনি কি করতে পেরেছিলেন তাঁর প্রাণ যা চেয়েছিল? Sir Nazimuddin কি করতে পেরেছিলেন তাঁর প্রাণ যা চেয়েছিল? তাঁরা কি জানেন না যে Secretariat'র এমন একটা রহস্যময় ও দুর্ভেদ্য অবস্থায় পড়ে থাকতে হয় যে, ইচ্ছা করলেও সেখানে কিছু কেউ করতে পারেন না। আমরা পারিনি, এটা দুঃখের কথা, কিন্তু সত্য কথা। Sir Nazimuddin আমাকে সমর্থন নিশ্চয়ই করবেন। তিনি অনেকবার বলেছেন যে, চেষ্টা করেও অনেক সময় অনেক কাজই করা যায় না। একেই বলে "steel frame," খাঁটি ইস্পাতে তৈরী। দুর্ভেদ্য আর এরই নাম পরাধীনতা। এই পরাধীনতা যতদিন থাকবে ততদিন এ ব্যবস্থা চলবে—এর চাইতেও ঘৃণ্য কলঙ্কময় ও অপমানকর ব্যবস্থা প্রতিদিনই আমাদের স্বীকার করে নিয়েই দিন কাটাতে হচ্ছে। Suhrawardy সাহেবকে স্পষ্ট ভাষায় একথা আমরা জানিয়ে দিতে চাই যে, সমস্ত চাকুরীগুলিও যদি আজ মুসলমান সম্প্রদায়কে দিয়ে দেওয়া হয়, আমরা দুঃখিত হবো না। (Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: "Order, order!") সভাপতি মহাশয়, আমরা ওঁদের বক্তৃতা ধৈর্য্য সহকারে শুনেছি; আমাদের পক্ষের এ সম্বন্ধে বলবার কথা শোনবার মত ধৈর্য্যও আমরা আশা করতে পারি। বাংলাদেশের I. B.'র সমস্ত চাকুরী একদিন হিন্দুদেরই একচেটিয়া ছিল কিন্তু তাতে আমাদের সুখ ছিল না; আমরা জানি হিন্দুই সব চেয়ে এই I. B.'র লোকদের হাতে নির্য্যাতিত হয়েছে। কাযেই আজকে চাকুরীতে হিন্দু লালায়িত নয়। তারা জেলে গিয়েছে, তারা মরেছে; তারা কখনও কি একথা বলেছে যে হিন্দুকে চাকুরী দাও? মুসলমান চাকুরী পেয়েছে এ কথা শুনে আমি সব চেয়ে খুসী হবো। যদি Suhrawardy সাহেব চেষ্টা করে সমস্ত চাকুরি মুসলমানদের দিতে পারেন, আমি খুসী হবো। (Opposition: 'আহা হা, শুনুন, শুনুন'।) কিন্তু এটাই সমস্যা নয়; সবচেয়ে, বড় সমস্যা A.R.P.'র গঠন সমস্যা। এ কথা বলা হচ্চে সমগ্র দেশবাসীকে যে, A.R.P. আমাদের রক্ষার ব্যবস্থা করেছেন। সে সম্বন্ধে তো Suhrawardy সাহেব একবার একটা কথাও বললেন না! যখন বৈদেশিক aeroplane থেকে বোমা পড়বে সেই বোমা কি হিন্দুর উপর খালি পড়বে? না মুসলমানের উপরও পড়বে? সেই বোমা থেকে বাঁচবার ও বাঁচাবার জন্যই এই প্রতিষ্ঠান গঠন করা হয়েছিল। বর্ত্তমান এ, আর, পি যে ভাবে গঠিত হয়েছে, তাতে সে উদ্দেশ্য সাধিত হবে বলে আর যারই বিশ্বাস থাক, আমার নেই। এ, আর, পি

বিভাগে যথেষ্ট সংখ্যক মুসলমান না নেওয়ার কারণ সম্পর্কে সাধারণ ভাবে এর পরিচালকবর্গ যা ব'লে থাকেন, তার মধ্যে একটা কথা শুধু প্রণিধানযোগ্য : গোড়াতে A. R. P.'র লোকদের মাইনে ছিল না। স্বেচ্ছাসেবকদের দ্বারা এ বিভাগের কাজ চালানো হবে এইটাই ছিল কল্পনা। এটা দুঃখের হলেও সত্য যে, বেশী সংখ্যক মুসলমান সেদিন সাড়া দেন নি। এটা মিথ্যা কথা নয়। এখন সেখানে এক বৎসর, দু বৎসর যাঁরা স্বেচ্ছাসেবকরূপে কাজ করেছিলেন এটা স্বাভাবিক যে তাদের মধ্যে থেকে বাছাই করেই অনেককে মাইনে দেওয়া হয়েছিল। কিন্তু বাহিরের বহু লোকও নিযুক্ত করা হয়েছে এবং যেভাবে লোক নেওয়া হয়েছে ও বাছাই করা হয়েছে তাতে সন্তুষ্ট হবার বিন্দুমাত্র কারণও নেই। আমরা যে সমস্ত লোকদের এ-কাজে নেবার জন্য পরামর্শ দিয়েছিলাম তাদের একজনকেও নেওয়া হয়নি। শুধু তা নয়। কর্পোরেশনের ভূতপূর্ব্ব মেয়র শ্রীযুক্ত ফনীন্দ্রনাথ ব্রহ্মের মতো লোক, A. R. P. পরিচালকের বিরুদ্ধে যে অভিযোগ আনয়ন করেছিলেন, মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় চেষ্টা করেও তার প্রতিকার করতে পারেন নি। এবং এই সব কারণেই মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের আন্তরিকতা সত্ত্বেও বেসরকারী কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানের সহযোগিতা এ, আর, পি বিভাগ পায় নি। এ বিভাগের সঙ্গে জনসাধারণের কোন সংযোগ নেই। জনসাধারণের শুভ ইচ্ছা ও কল্যাণ কামনা থেকেও তাই তারা বঞ্চিত। মুসলমান সম্প্রদায়ের চাকুরীর ব্যবস্থা করা এক কথা, আর সেই অজুহাতে সাম্প্রদায়িক দুষ্ট মনোভাব জাগিয়ে তোলবার চেষ্টা আরেক কথা। সমস্ত ব্যবস্থার সঙ্গেই হিন্দু-মুসলমানের প্রশ্ন তুলে লাভ নেই। সব চেয়ে বড় প্রশ্ন আজকে যে, A. R. P.তে এমন একটা ব্যবস্থা করতে পারা যায় কিনা যে এই যে লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ হচ্ছে সেই টাকা দিয়ে কিছু উপকার আমাদের সাধিত হয়। কাল যখন বৈদেশিক আক্রমণ আরম্ভ হবে, যখন বোমা-বৃষ্টি হবে, তখন জীবন রক্ষা সম্বন্ধে প্রয়োজনীয় ব্যবস্থা A. R. P. করতে পারবে কিনা। Suhrawardy সাহেব কিন্তু এ জন্য মাথা ঘামান না। বাংলার জাতি হিসাবে কি অবস্থা হবে, এদিকে তাঁর মাথাব্যথা নেই; তাঁর মাথাব্যথা দুটো palatable words, মুখরোচক কথা বলে, to capture the imagination of foolsএ ছাড়া আর কোন বড় কথা এর মধ্যে নেই। জাতির যা স্বার্থ, জাতির যা ইষ্ট, সে সম্বন্ধে কোন বিবেচনা করবার শক্তি তাঁর নাই। সমগ্র জীবন একটা জটিলতা এবং স্বার্থসিদ্ধির অনুপ্রেরণায় অনুপ্রাণিত হয়ে উদ্দাম ভাবে নিজেকে চালিয়ে গিয়েছেন; তাছাড়া তিনি আর কোন চিন্তা করেন নাই।

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: On a point of order. Is the honourable member entitled to defame an entire community by calling the Muslim community fools?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has not said that.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: He has said "attempting to capture the imagination of fools."

BABU NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRAVARTY: আমি বলিনি, আমি মুসলমান সম্প্রদায়ের কথা উচ্চারণও করিনি। There might be some fools in the Hindu community also.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Suhrawardy, I do not think he has characterised the Muslim community as fools. I will look into the proceedings and will give my decision.

BABU NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRAVARTY: মাননীয় সহসভাপতি মহাশয়, আমি শেষে শুধু এই কথাই বলবো যে এই রকম একটা অতি প্রয়োজনীয় বিষয় নিয়ে সমস্ত জাতিকে বিভ্রান্ত করবার এই অপচেষ্টা থেকে অন্তত: Sir Nazimuddin শ্রীযুক্ত সোরওয়ার্দ্দির মত লোককে নিবৃত্ত করবেন। এ না করলে, জাতির সর্ব্বনাশ হবে, লাভ হবে না।

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, may I rise to draw your attention to an important aspect of the rules of procedure here? We have heard the parliamentary expression "catching the Speaker's eye", but when we put forward a grievance or raise a point of order we cannot be silenced by the statement that you have not heard the expression complained of or that you will look into the reports and then decide, because by the time you decide, the opportunity is lost.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I expect that you will maintain the tradition and dignity of the House but as I see days in and days out we are going far below the level. Members are repeatedly indulging in addressing one another, and it is impossible for me to catch all the words uttered and expressions used by members. It is impossible for me to hear when expressions of approval or disapproval come from members in a manner which I always disapprove. You have also noticed the attitude of the Opposition members in their expression of approval or disapproval. When Mr. Chakrabarty was speaking, the expressions of approval or disapproval by the Opposition were so very rough that it was not possible for me to hear the exact expressions used by Mr. Chakrabarty. Therefore I have to depend on the report of the proceedings. Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi need not remind me that it is my duty to give my decision then and there, because it is a matter absolutely within the discretion of the Chair. When I think it necessary, I will give my decision then and there. As regards the conduct of a certain section of the members I am absolutely helpless. I would beg of you not to go below the level. I hope that you will maintain the tradition and dignity of the House. After all it is a legislature. We may have our own political views and other views, but we must maintain the dignity of the House.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while rising to lend my wholehearted support to the motion so ably moved by my Deputy Leader, I do not like to inflict a long speech, for I think that my honourable friend has already given sufficient figures as to the recruitment to the A.R.P. services so far as the Muslim community is concerned, but as this is a very important subject I cannot refrain myself from placing a few more facts which I have been able to collect so far.

Before doing so, I would like to point out to the House, especially to the Progressive party members sitting opposite that the speech just now delivered by my friend Babu Narendra Narayan Chakrabarty is a speech absolutely directed to attacking Mr. Suhrawardy. I think that not a single member from his party will be able to find out a single answer to the injustice that has been done with regard to the recruitment that has been made in the various branches of the A.R.P. organisation.

Now, Sir, I come to the statement that has been made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has covered almost 17 or 18 pages in dealing with the various branches of the A.R.P. organisation. He has said that some questions were put from time to time to ascertain the number of personnels which have been appointed from the various communities to the different branches of A.R.P. organisations. In this connection, may I bring to the notice of honourable members that with regard to the various appointments in the A.R.P. organisation I put a question in the Assembly in the last session and I got a reply from the Hon'ble Speaker, dated the 25th February, 1942, intimating me that it had been sent to the department concerned. That question has not been answered yet. It was held over. The other day I drew the attention of the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker asking him when these questions that were held over during the last session would be answered, but still no answers have been given. In this session I have put those questions again just to ascertain the actual percentage of the actual number that has been recruited up till now in the various organisations from the different communities, but the Hon'ble Minister has kept it with him so long and has not the courage to come out with those figures.

Now, Sir, besides the figures which have been given by the Deputy Leader, I may place before this House some more important figures which will show what injustice has been done to the Muslim community with regard to the recruitment to the A.R.P. services.

Sir, before I do so, from the statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, I would like to give you an idea of the percentage of paid services with regard to the various branches of the A.R.P. organisation. He has said that 20 per cent. of the warden service is paid. All personnel in the central control and report centres are paid; 50 per cent. of the messenger service is paid; all persons in the casualty service attached to the first-aid post are paid; all persons attached to the ambulance service are paid; all persons attached to the sitting case cars are paid; 75 per cent. of the persons attached to the first-aid post is paid; all persons attached to the rescue service are paid. Besides these paid posts, there are street fire-fighting parties and also auxiliary fire service party which are being contemplated to be organised.

Now, Sir, let us examine this question as to how the city of Calcutta along with Alipore has been divided into sub-areas and how and in what manner for each sub-area recruitment has been made from the different communities.

Here I may quote some figures that I have been able to collect so far. In order to make selection for recruitments to the various services in the A.R.P. a committee has been set up. It is composed of 8 members, 7 Hindus and one Muslim.

Twenty-two or 23 sub-areas have been formed in the district of Calcutta along with Alipore. Let me give you some figures. Post Wardens have been appointed in each of these sub-areas:—

In Shampukur 7 wardens have been appointed, all Hindus.

In Bartala 7 wardens have been appointed, all Hindus.

In Barra Bazar 4 wardens have been appointed, 3 Hindus and one Muslim.

In Jorabagan 5 wardens have been appointed, all Hindus.

In Jorasanko 5 wardens have been appointed, all Hindus.

In Amherst Street 5 wardens have been appointed 4 Hindus and one Muslim.

In Cossipore 15 wardens have been appointed, 14 Hindus and one Muslim.

In Chitpore 16 wardens have been appointed, 15 Hindus and one Muslim.

In Maniktola 20 wardens have been appointed, 18 Hindus and 2 Muslims.

In Belliaghatta 16 wardens have been appointed, 14 Hindus and 2 Muslims.

In Entally 15 wardens have been appointed, 13 Hindus and 2 Muslims.

In Beniapukur 15 wardens have been appointed, 9 Muslims and 6 Hindus.

In Hare Street 5 wardens have been appointed, 2 Hindus, 2 Anglo-Indians and one Muslim.

In Bow Bazar 5 wardens have been appointed, 4 Hindus and one Muslim.

In Muchipara 5 wardens have been appointed, 4 Hindus and one Muslim.

In Taltala 5 wardens have been appointed, 4 Hindus and one Muslim.

In Park Circus 5 wardens have been appointed, all Anglo-Indians.

In Ballygunge 23 wardens have been appointed, 17 Hindus and 6 Muslims.

In Bhowanipore 14 wardens have been appointed, all Hindus.

In Tollygunge 13 appointed, all Hindus.

In Alipore 16 wardens have been appointed, all Hindus.

In Watganj, 12 wardens have been appointed, 11 Hindus and one Muslim.

Now, Sir, it will be seen that out of the total number of 232 appointments only 32 have gone to the Muslims.

Now, Sir, with regard to various services, as my Deputy Leader has already pointed out, like Messenger Service, Assistant Messenger Service, head cooks, sub-cooks, attendants and servants to prepare food in emergency 900 appointments have been made. But of these 900 only 40 happen to go to Muslims.

As has already been placed before the House recently 27 staff officers have been appointed in Calcutta of which 21 happen to be Hindus and 4 Muslims and 2 Anglo-Indians. Sir, we are told that not less than one lakh of appointments have been made in the various services of the A.R.P. organisation. Out of these I am given to understand that only 5 per cent. has gone to Muslims. Let me give the honourable members an idea of the recruitments made in Howrah. I shall also try to mention the specific pay for each of the services. I think my respected friend, Mr. Syed Badrudduja, is already aware of these facts because as Secretary of the Progressive Coalition Party he convened meetings of the Enquiry Committee formed by the Progressive Coalition Party to enquire into the recruitments that have been made in various services in the A.R.P. He is convinced that injustice has been done to the Muslim community. It has been said that the Chief Wardens are honorary. The total number is 12, all are Hindus and there is not a single Muslim. In the case of 12 Deputy Wardens also, there is no Muslim. Of the thirty head wardens there are only 2 Muslims. Amongst the post wardens there are 80 Hindus and 2 Muslims. The total is 82. Of the 850 wardens carrying a pay of Rs. 30 per mensem, 808 are Hindus and 42 are Muslims. In the Messenger Service carrying a pay of Rs. 30 the total strength of the cadre is 194, 188 Hindus and 6 Muslims. The Chief Messenger gets a pay of Rs. 275 and he is a Hindu.

With regard to Casualty Service the position has already been explained. But as regards Assistant Surgeons it has been omitted through mistake by my Deputy Leader. Twelve appointments have been made each carrying a monthly salary of Rs. 150 and all of them have gone to Hindus.

Coming to Street Fire Parties, the officer in charge gets a salary of Rs. 550 per mensem. One Hindu staff officer has been appointed on Rs. 150 per mensem. Thirty instructors have been appointed carrying a salary of Rs. 70 each and all the appointments have gone to Hindus. Thus it will be seen that out of 1,661 appointments only 64 have gone to Muslims.

I would earnestly beg of the Muslim members of the Progressive Coalition Party just to think and consider the ruthless manner in which these appointments have been made. It reveals the mentality of the present Ministry, specially that of the Minister in charge of the Department. I must say it is ruthless and shocking—not only shocking but heinous and criminal. It might be argued that they had no hand in the matter, but I would just resume my seat by quoting only the first paragraph from the statement of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister wherein he has said "The House is well aware the Provincial Government has no responsibility for active defence but they have a very real responsibility for ensuring that the passive defence measures and steps taken for the protection of citizens are

adequate". Sir, they have a responsibility for taking these measures. They cannot shirk that responsibility by saying that they have no hand in the matter of recruitment to the various services in the A.R.P.

Mr. C. GRIFFITHS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, speaking on the present situation I would like to point out that the highest form of a civilised government is to treat the minorities as equals and to give their leaders as well as the leaders of the larger communities the same opportunity to share in the administration of the country and the only way to do this is for the Bengal Government to include in its Cabinet the elements that represent the peoples of this country under the three main heads, namely, Muslim, Hindu and British. It should be clearly understood that the three main factors that compose the peoples of this province are the Muslims, the Hindus and the British, all the others are mere sub-divisions and could easily be included under these three heads. If this was done it would throw responsibility on all, and the injustice referred to by Mr. Suhrawardy with regard to Muslims in the A.R.P. services would not have occurred. I am afraid, a great deal of misunderstanding has been caused by the British people keeping aloof, and calling themselves Europeans, and not identifying themselves with the country as they would do in Canada or Australia. Why do they not style themselves as Indo-British or Euro-Indians? They, as countrymen, have a big stake in this country, but they give the Indians the impression that they are mere birds of passage, just like other traders, be he German or Japanese and therefore have not the same interest as the children of the Europeans who are born and domiciled in the country and who call themselves Anglo-Indians here. The Anglo-Indians are thus cut adrift, shorn of all their strength, to fight single-handed a fight based on moral claims but which are as good, if not better than what any section can claim in the country. (A VOICE FROM THE OPPOSITION: We will fight for you.) The true index of the country can be gauged by the position of the Anglo-Indians.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Griffiths, it would be better if you would confine yourself to A.R.P. matters.

Mr. C. GRIFFITHS: Yes, Sir, I will do that. Therefore to appropriate power by one party by force is to dominate over the others, (Hear! Hear!) and this is a gross perversion of "Majority rule" which should mean the voice of the united peoples and not of any particular section, be it Muslim, Hindu or British. (Cheers.) By so doing you have set up a stronger party to destroy and trample over the weaker, irrespective of the fact that the weaker party may possess qualities or rights as good as, if not better than, the one in power and so you have established the rule of the jungle, brute force, and dragged the country back to barbarism. Let us not bring a judgment upon ourselves and later be the victims of aggression, aggression which seems so dear to the heart of the tyrant. We should remember no one sympathises with a bully. You have thus set up party against party by bringing force into play with all the diabolical cunning needed to destroy an

enemy, and the result is, law and order cannot be maintained without severe measures being taken, as unfortunately were taken at Dacca, and so we are in danger of a civil war. And what is war?—Hell let loose, that is the state the country is heading for, and what is more, with the enemy at our door. (Hear! Hear!)

Then, Sir, we are told that there is a party in the country in league with the enemy to bring about a change in the government for the good of the people. Sir, let my countrymen understand that it is not a change for the better but for the worse, from freedom down to slavery. It is the slave mentality at work that asks for a change of masters, or traitors who would sell their country for the benefit of a section of the people only. Let us not confuse and confound the issue by ambiguous terms such as freedom, equality and majority rule. There are no slaves where the British flag flies; otherwise you would not have your Tatas and Birlas as millionaires.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Griffiths, I am afraid, you are speaking beside the point. I would ask you to confine yourself to the subject under discussion.

Mr. C. GRIFFITHS: I am giving the cause of the present situation and how to remedy it. Sir, there can be no equality between intelligence and ignorance, between qualities that are Poles apart, such as action and inaction, and finally majority rule does not mean power in the hands of any one community but in the hands of the united nation—the Muslims, the Hindus and the British. (Hear! Hear!) We should remember the story of the father and his quarrelsome sons. Our motto should be each for all and all for each. The voice of the people is the voice of God, and so we say, the Government of the people, by the people, for the people and not by any particular community. (Cheers.)

Last of all we should recall the fable of the Ass that carried an image on his back. When the people bowed the Ass began to put on airs and prance about till his master belaboured him and brought him to his senses. (Laughter.) The moral is, they are not wise who take to themselves credit that is due to others.

Authority does not belong to any one party but comes from the united nation. (A VOICE: That's right.) Therefore let the Government readjust the Cabinet and include the elements that represent the peoples of the country. The A.R.P. authorities should take a lesson from Lord Sinha and the Police Commissioner, Mr. Fairweather, and their Civic Guards of Calcutta. The 24 District Commandants are as follows: 12 Hindus, 7 Moslems, 2 Europeans, 2 Anglo-Indians and 1 Parsee.

Mr. RASIKLAL BISWAS: যে resolution এখানে move করা হোয়েছে সে resolution যদিও moved from the Opposition তবুও আমি তার ভাষা ও ভাব support কোরছি। কারণ, A. R. P. একটা important বিষয়, এই বিভাগে বহু লোক নিযুক্ত করা হোয়েছে। মুসলমান সম্প্রদায়ের কম লোক নিযুক্ত হওয়ায় যেমন তাঁদের মনে একটা

বিক্ষোভ দেখা দিয়েছে তেমনি Scheduled Castesএরও কোন লোক নিযুক্ত না হওয়ায় আমাদের মনে দুঃখ তার চেয়ে সহস্র গুণ বেশী হোয়েছে। যারা নিয়োক্তা তাদের কৃতকার্য্যের জন্য দায়ী হোতে হবে। এই রকম একটা important serviceএ যদি আমাদের সম্প্রদায়ের লোকদের প্রবেশের সুযোগ না দেওয়া হয় তাহোলে তার অর্থ এই দাঁড়ায় যে এই সমস্ত কাজের উপযোগী মুসলমান ও Scheduled Castes নাই,—সেই জন্যই আমাদের লোক এই বিভাগে নেওয়া হয় নাই, নৈলে এই রকম একটা দায়িত্বপূর্ণ কাজে—স্বদেশের এই রকম সেবার সুযোগ পাওয়ার কাজে—আমাদের নেওয়া হবে না কেন? এই কাজ যিনিই কোরে থাকুন এর জন্য মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের যদি কোন দায়িত্ব থাকে কিম্বা যদি তাঁর দায়িত্ব না থেকে একটা particular officerএর দায়িত্ব থেকে থাকে তাহোলেও এই কাজের দ্বারা আমাদের প্রতি গুরুতর অন্যায় করা হোয়েছে বোলে আমি এর তীব্র প্রতিবাদ জানাচ্ছি। আমরা এ নিয়ে অনেক প্রতিবাদ পূর্ব্বেও কোরেছি। এবং মন্ত্রী মহাশয় আমাদের কাছে প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়েছেন—তিনি এ বিষয়টা সংশোধন কোরতে চেষ্টার ত্রুটি কোরবেন না। এযাবৎ তাঁহারা বোলে আসছেন যে তাঁরা ত্রুটি করেন নাই। কিন্তু A. R. P. Controller Mr. Hands, যাঁকে পূর্ব্ববর্ত্তী মন্ত্রীরা নিযুক্ত করে গেছেন, তিনি নিজেকে এমন শক্তিশালী মনে করেন যে, তাঁর চাকরী যখন Bengal Governmentএর underএ নয়, Government of Indiaর special আইনের বলে তিনি নিযুক্ত, তাঁর অধীনে চাকরীতে কোন রকম communal ratio নাকি তিনি মানবেন না, তাঁর নিজের ইচ্ছা মতই নাকি তিনি যাকে খুসী চাকরী দেবেন। তিনি নাকি আরও বলেন—"এ বিষয়ে আমি কোন আইন কানুন কিছুই মানবো না। যাকে সুবিধা মনে করি তাকেই নিযুক্ত কোরব।" আমাদের মন্ত্রী মহোদয় তাঁর নিকট অনেক অনুরোধ উপরোধ কোরেও নাকি তাঁকে টলাতে পারেন নি। আজ এই কথা আমরা মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে জানাচ্ছি যে তাঁরা নিজেদেরকে helpless বোলে plead কোরেছেন, তাই শুনে আমরা নিরস্ত হোয়েছি, কিন্তু আমরা তাদের কথায় সন্তুষ্ট হইনি। আমি মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে জানাতে চাই যদি কোন particular officer Bengal Governmentএর policy মানতে রাজি না হন তা হোলে তাকে সেখান থেকে সরিয়ে দেওয়া কিম্বা উপযুক্ত শিক্ষা দেবার ব্যবস্থা করা উচিত ছিলো। এ সম্বন্ধে যদি তাঁরা কোন ব্যবস্থা কোরতে চান, আমরা সম্পূর্ণ রূপে Bengal Governmentকে সাহায্য কোরতে প্রস্তুত আছি। যে officer Governmentএর কথা মানতে রাজি নন সে officerকে শাস্তি দেবার জন্য Government of Bengal যদি কোন step নিতে প্রস্তুত থাকেন তবে আমরা তাঁদের সাহায্য করবার জন্য সকল রকমে প্রস্তুত আছি। আমি আবার জানিয়ে দিচ্ছি—A. R. P.র কুব্যবস্থার ফলে আমাদের সম্প্রদায় অত্যন্ত ক্ষুব্ধ হোয়েছে, এবং তাদের সেই ক্ষোভ নিঃসরণ হবে না যে পর্য্যন্ত না তাদের অভিযোগের প্রতিকার হয়।

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I did not want to intervene in this debate, but the first speaker on the side of the Government mentioned my name. I was in the A.R.P. Committee, not as a representative of the Muslim League but of the Muslim Chamber of Commerce, and, as such, I had defined my position clearly.

A point has been made by the two speakers on behalf of the Government that all the trouble was raised by the Controller of the A.R.P. as he had made the appointments. Sir, they should realise that they are putting the

poor Minister into a very terrible position. He, thus, becomes a puppet and a marionette in the hands of the Controller of the A.R.P. But, Sir, I make this statement with the fullest possible responsibility and if I am wrong or if I am making a statement which is incorrect I shall be the first man to stand up and apologise. A Committee appointed by the Hon'ble Minister to choose candidates was sitting and had selected a few candidates for appointment. In sails the Hon'ble Minister and hands over a list of names to the Chairman of the Committee and says "these shall be appointed". One member of the Committee protested—I shall not give the very words used—and raises trouble. Now, may I ask, was it the Minister or the Controller of the A.R.P. who was responsible for the appointments? If you appoint a committee, as a rule, the Minister should keep miles away from it. On the other hand, having the experience of the Calcutta Corporation as I have, and the manner in which Muslims have been debarred from entering the services under the very nose of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, I can say that Muslims have been treated much more severely and much more unjustly by the Minister who made these appointments. The Controller is not responsible. Sir, the Minister gave the list and the Committee was compelled to accept those names and discard even those that had been selected.

Sir, our case does not lie in the money that will go into the pockets of Muslims who may be appointed on Rs. 600 or Rs. 6. The problem is a question of life and death for my Muslim brothers. The Secretary of the Progressive Party may deny me the right to speak on behalf of my Muslim brothers of Bengal. Sir, being the descendant of the Prophet whom I adore and whose law I follow, he should not deny me my rights as a Muslim. I do not make any distinction or division among Muslims. A Bengali Muslim is as much my brother as a Chinese Muslim or had there been a Muslim amongst the inhabitants of the North Pole if there were any, he would have been my brother and I would have had a hundred per cent. right to speak on his behalf.

The question, as I have said, is not a question of salaries. The question is: when the *bala* (calamity) comes from the heaven, when the *bala* comes along the river and when the terror actually comes; who will stand by my Muslim brother? Singapore, Malaya, Rangoon and other places have told us how things happened. Sir, it should have been the point of view of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister that he will stand at his post who has got his family and his home in the area so menaced. You kick the Muslim residents out in this unceremonious way and hand us over to those who may not extend to us that sympathy and protection which we have a right to expect. To say in the beginning that the communal ratio will not apply, fill in all the posts and then quietly come out and reverse the decision when we raise our voice of protest and say "now communal ratio will apply" is something that is not done among honourable men. They have out of their generosity now said "communal ratio will apply", but where are the posts? Never mind, whether there be any posts or not, I ask the Hon'ble the Chief Minister to stand up in his place and declare that

Muslims will be taken in a voluntary capacity. Muslims will be put in to defend Muslims and their hearths and homes and to stand by them when the calamity comes.

Sir, honourable members on the side opposite must forgive me. So far as nationalism is concerned I think I am senior to many and certainly more staunch than any one from the other side. Yet, Sir, I realise the difficulty of the situation. With daily instructions on the radio from outside and open rebellion inside the country—and as the honourable member for 24-Parganas has put it—patting me on the back and saying "you are a good boy" and then throwing me to the wolves, is not a long-sighted policy.

Sir, they have put their keymen in all the positions. When the calamity comes or, as I have said, when the *bala* comes, my poor Muslim brothers in the eastern districts of Bengal will have no protector except Allah. Will the Hon'ble Chief Minister for once, Sir, in these days of calamity, in these days of fear and terror in Bengal, in these days of a veritable *Qiyamat-i-Sughra*, a day of judgment on a miniature scale, become the agency of Allah, the Almighty, and devise means to protect Muslims also? Will he get up and tell me "Abdur Rahman, don't worry. My colleagues may have committed a blunder but Allah is with us. I shall not allow one Muslim child, one Muslim woman, one Muslim man to be killed, to be crushed, to be pulverized by the enemy within and the enemy without".

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The arrangement is, tomorrow Sir Nazimuddin and Sir Henry Birkmyre will speak and after that the reply will come from the Government side. I will finish the debate tomorrow as early as possible, say within one hour.

The House stands adjourned till 8-45 a.m. tomorrow.

Adjournment.

The House was accordingly adjourned at 11-25 a.m. till 8-45 a.m. on Wednesday, the 23rd September, 1942, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 23rd September, 1942, at 8-45 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY) in the Chair, 8 Hon'ble Ministers and 178 members.

Unstarred Question No. 26.

(As soon as unstarred question No. 26 was called, Mr Mirza Abdul Hafiz rose to put a supplementary question).

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before any question is answered may I draw your attention to the fact that I put this question on the 4th of September? I also put this question on the 25th February, 1942. The question was held over. This session also I put the same question. Now, from the Legislative Assembly Department a letter has been addressed to me intimating that the question has been admitted in the form as I am reading before the House---

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please consult me in my chamber. I cannot answer it off-hand.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Sir, may I submit that the question as has been put in the question paper today is not at all necessary for us? What I wanted to have is a complete question and its answer.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In that case I would suggest that the question may be held over.

(The question was held over.)

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, if you hold it over, please see that this question is answered during this session. It was put during the last session and it was held over. If it is held over this time, will you please see that it is not shelved again?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will see that the answer is given this session.

The Calcutta Tenancy Bill, 1941.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Sir, with your permission may I ask for the leave of the House for the extension of time for submission of the Select Committee Report on the Calcutta Tenancy Bill, 1941? The time has expired and I am asking for permission for the extension of time till the 31st December, 1942.

(There being no objection the time was extended.)

The Bengal Supervision of Orphanage and Widows' Home Bill, 1940.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time for submission of the Select Committee Report on the Bengal Supervision of Orphanage and Widows' Home Bill, 1940, may be extended till the 31st December, 1942.

(There being no objection the time was extended.)

Held-over questions.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, will you kindly let the House know how many questions were held over from the last session? Possibly some of them have been answered. May we know, Sir, what is the exact number that remains to be answered and whether they are going to be answered this session?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The number of carried over questions is 55 and up to 22nd September, 1942, altogether we have received answers from the Home Department for 79 questions. The total number of held-over questions is 135.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, will you please see that the remaining questions are answered this session? Five months should have been sufficient for Government to answer the questions that have been pending with them.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will ask the Department concerned to expedite the matter and I hope to get them in this session.

SPECIAL MOTIONS.

On the Chief Minister's Statement.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In the absence of Sir Henry Birkmyre, I ask Sir Nazimuddin to speak. But before I do so, I will tell this House that when the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the House will be speaking, there should not be any interruption. On more than one

occasion I have requested the members not to interrupt either by hissing sound, or by uproarious scenes, or by other kinds of interruptions. To-day of all days the subject that is being discussed is a very important one and I would request the members of both sides of the House, and particularly the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the House to see that no member makes any interruption, as I have said, by hissing sound or by making approbation or disapprobation or by approval or disapproval. Even if any point of order is to be raised, I will not allow it to be raised during the time when the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the House will speak. I hope the members will follow my direction in this matter.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Sir, you cannot prevent a member from raising a point of order if the point of order is pertinent.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I quite follow you. Members are entitled to raise a point of order at any time they may like to do, but to-day of all days considering the importance of the debate and the important decision that the House is going to come to, I would request the honourable members to refrain as far as possible from raising even a point of order when the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the House will speak.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, is it your decision that after the Leader of the Opposition speaks no other member will be allowed to speak?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: After the Leader of the Opposition speaks only the Hon'ble Minister will be allowed to speak.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The motion that has been moved by my friend, Mr. Suhrawardy, is one which is very important and the speech with which he supported the resolution contains facts and figures which go to show that as far as the question of injustice with regard to the appointments of Muslims and Scheduled Castes is concerned there is practically no opposition to that claim and, actually, I am sure not only the Hon'ble Minister but every member of this House will admit that there has been gross injustice done to the Muslims and the Scheduled Castes in the appointments made in the A. R. P. Services. Therefore I do not propose to repeat what has already been stated, and I believe, Sir, that the facts and figures that have been submitted by the speakers yesterday are so overwhelming that it is no use labouring the point any further. But, Sir, before I deal with other aspects of this question there is one point which I want to raise first of all, and it is with reference to the allegation, a very serious allegation, that was made by Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi. Sir, I demand, and I am sure the House demands, a definite reply from the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu with regard to the allegation of favouritism, nepotism and jobbery in the matter of making appointments in the A.R.P.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Just one second, Sir. Did Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi mention my name?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He said "the Minister in charge".

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I am not the Minister in charge, Sir.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, of course I understand that as far as the A.R.P. and Civil Defence are concerned it is Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu who is in charge of them.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Not at all.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: If it is not so then I hope that whoever is the Minister present or the Minister responsible will either admit or deny the charges or allegations that were made. I feel that this is a very important question. A statement has been definitely made and this statement has not been made for the first time. Before the House met allegations of this character were made in the newspapers, but we could not force a reply from Government at that time but now that the House has met and we have had an opportunity a definite charge has been made against the Minister concerned and I hope that the Minister concerned will deny the charge or admit it.

Now, Sir, the other point is that as far as these appointments are concerned, it is admitted that the Muslims and the Scheduled Castes have been sacrificed. Evidently the Ministry is going to put up some kind of a defence, and as I am not going to get any chance of speaking after the Hon'ble Minister replies, I have got to anticipate the arguments, that will be advanced in defence of their conduct. Luckily for us, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has supplied some members at least of this House with a document in advance, a signed document, giving the reasons and his justification for not being able to rectify these wrongs. Sir, here I have in my possession a document printed at the Government Press signed by the Chief Minister with the following headlines and, Sir, this is a most extraordinary document. It bristles with issues——

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: May I rise on a point of order, Sir? I want your ruling on this point for our guidance on this occasion as well as in future. It is true that I have prepared a note which I got printed and at the top of the document there is a note that it is not for publication or circulation. It is confidential. I remember having supplied some copies to some of the members of my party.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: On a point of order, Sir. Is the Hon'ble Chief Minister entitled to make a statement at this stage?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: It is not a point of order, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is a point of order and you must wait.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: It is not merely a point of order but a point of procedure.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN. I submit that if it is not a point of order. I do not yield. I should be allowed to finish my sentence.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is a point of order.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I distinctly remember not having supplied any copies to my friends on the left. I wonder how Sir Nazimuddin got hold of a copy! Supposing he did, is he entitled to read from a document which is confidential and which I have not used yet. I want your ruling, Sir, for guidance in future. I do not know whether I will use it. Would you allow anything to be read out then, Sir, from that document? I do not know. It may be necessary that the whole thing should be circulated to the House. It is for you to decide whether he should be allowed to read from a document which I have not used yet.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: With regard to the point of order raised by the Hon'ble Chief Minister I may say, first of all, that I would like to see the document and I will examine it whether it is a public document or a document of a confidential nature If the document is of a confidential nature, and if that does not serve any useful purpose and if it at the same time harms public interest I will examine it and give my ruling. I hope Sir Nazimuddin will let me see the document.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Before you give your ruling, Sir, I beg to submit something in this connection. It is an admission of the Hon'ble Chief Minister himself here that he has already given it to some members of the House. And if one member has received a copy of it from him it is no longer a confidential document. The second point is that this document has has been brought here in a bundle and has been distributed to a large number of members of the House. That raises the issue whether this was proper or not. Sir, as far as the document is concerned, the thing is there, it has been printed at Government expense, and all that the House requires is that if anybody asks to inspect that document, it should be complied with. But as it has to do with the members of the House I claim, Sir, that I am entitled to have it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: With regard to the document, I may say that there are lots of references in May's Parliamentary Practice to publication, production and reading from documents, but it is very difficult for me to find out the references there now. But I hold that this document is of a confidential nature and it is clearly written that it is confidential but at the same time I find that it is also written for the personal use of the members only. There is no distinction made as to which class of members—whether members of the Government Party or members of the Legislature or members

of the public are concerned. I would allow you to make references from this document, but I say that if it goes against public interest, certainly I would not allow you to read that portion of the document, but if it is not against public interest I will allow you to read it.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Now, Sir, this document is a documentary proof of the statement made by me at the time of the general discussion, where I stated that the Ministers, and particularly the Chief Minister, had been in the habit of denying the responsibility, shirking the responsibility and throwing the blame on a subordinate officer. The purport of this document is to point out that the Controller is entirely responsible for these appointments, that the Chief Minister has tried his level best to rectify the wrong done and that he has been unable to succeed. And when he was unable to succeed he was trying in advance, by preparing this document as a sort of defence, to satisfy his party and the members of the Scheduled Caste party and to prevent them from being agitated over this question. Sir, the other day Mr. Suhrawardy stated that the Hon'ble the Chief Minister is in the habit of writing notes. The significance of that remark cannot be understood properly by the members of this House except those who had the privilege, if I may say so, of working with him and knowing his method. Sir, it is not unusual for him, when he finds that he is being troubled by his supporters or he is in an awkward position, to dash out a long and emphatic note merely with the object of preparing a case in advance, never intending to take any action whatsoever. I maintain, Sir, that as far as this note is concerned, it is of a similar character. But I find, as far as this note is concerned, here is a good example of the theory that has been put forward, namely, however well-planned a crime may be, however well thought out a crime may be, the criminal sometimes, as a matter of fact, leaves a clue and the clue is of such a nature that it is obvious to everybody, and yet the criminal never thinks of it. As far as this document is concerned, it possesses that trait. But, Sir, this document has raised certain questions which practically affect the fabric of the constitution and good government, and I would ask the honourable members of the House to realise how dangerous is the practice in which the Hon'ble the Chief Minister is indulging. Sir, it is not merely a question of demoralising the services but is also a question of shirking its own responsibility on the part of the Government and of throwing the blame on the subordinates. But, Sir, one of the most fundamental principles, a parliamentary practice which has been observed in this House always and in every other Legislature, namely, that the notes of departmental officers are to be treated as confidential and not to be disclosed to enable the officers to express their opinion freely without any fear of being criticised by the Legislature where they have got no right to reply—the principle which you, Sir, and your predecessor have maintained that Government are not bound to disclose the recommendations of the departmental officers—that principle has been given the go-by, because we find that extracts from the notes written by Mr. Hands in reply to certain questions put to him by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister, have been printed in it and circulated to the members of the House. Sir, I will just read a portion of it and I will

ask the House to have the patience to listen to it: "Of the various accusations levelled against the present Ministry, the most bitter, obnoxious and most strange has been one for the Muslims in the A. R. P. services in Bengal. It has formed a constant vilification of the Ministers and specially the Muslim Ministers on the ground that they have suffered the Muslim interest to be sacrificed with a view to placate their Hindu colleagues and to keep their position in the Cabinet intact at the sacrifice of the best interests of the community. Their position has been complicated by reasons of the fact that the allegations of the injustices done to the Muslim cause are based on figures which are practically admitted by the officers responsible for appointment, and therefore the fact of the injustice to the community being once established the issue is narrowed down to the question of responsibility for the injustices. This is very easily shifted to the Ministers who are supposed to be responsible for all the sins of omissions and commissions"—these are the important words, Sir,—"all the sins of omissions and commissions of which the permanent officials may be guilty. The argument is that the injustice is admitted and the Ministers themselves are either directly responsible for what has been done or, at any rate, deserve condemnation for not having been able to put a check on the injustices that have been perpetrated by the permanent officials. I knew that for once at least the position is something definite on which to base the attack. They have never helped to strengthen their hands and they have been able to take the fullest advantage of the opportunity to them by the admitted injustices done to the Muslim interest to launch a well-sustained attack on the Ministers who are now in power."

"I knew the consequence of the situation that had been created by the officers responsible for the appointments and I at once took steps to rectify the grave injustice that had been done to the Muslim community and to the Scheduled Castes in Bengal." Sir, you will see that the whole theme of this is that the officers are responsible and the Hon'ble Minister is innocent. "As soon as the facts were brought to my notice I got into communication with Mr. A. S. Hands, the Controller of the Calcutta Area, and other Controllers outside Calcutta. On the 13th July, 1942, I ordered an official investigation on the basis of a questionnaire that I issued and demanded a correct statement of facts along with official defence, if any. The reply of Mr. Hands, dated the 30th July, together with subsequent correspondence which is in my possession is a revealing document of surpassing interest. His contention in effect is that he exercised the powers by virtue of section 4 (*1*) of the A. R. P. Services Ordinance of 1941 which states, 'The Controller may appoint any such member to any office of command in the service' and by virtue of rule 5(*1*) of the rules made under section 10 of the Ordinance which states, 'Appointment to any office of command shall be made by the Controller in his discretion. Appointments to other ranks in A. R. P. Services are made by Heads of Services.' In effect he claims to be an autonomous authority within the Bengal Provincial Autonomy and the Ministers have no control over him. "The Communal Ratio Rules according to him"—mark the words "according to him", I will refer to this later on as this is the real point at issue—"are subject to

the imperative necessity of efficiency." Now, Sir, I hope the honourable members will remember this. I will remind them about it later on. "If I were to release the whole of the correspondence which has passed between him and me it will fill volumes. I am giving below only a few extracts from his note, dated the 30th July 1942." Then we have got the notes. In suitable time I will read them, but, Sir, imagine the Hon'ble the Chief Minister descending to the level of creating an agitation against a subordinate officer of his by means of allegations against him. Sir, it is a recognised principle that the officers of Government cannot be criticised in this House, and as far as I am concerned I want to make it quite clear that I am not here either to defend or to condemn Mr. Hands. I maintain, Sir, that according to constitutional practice it is the Minister who is responsible for whatever happens and my criticism must be levelled against the Minister. The reason why this rule is observed is this: a Government officer has got no opportunity or no chance of defending himself. The only person who can defend him is the Minister concerned. Therefore, it is not fair or proper that one should criticise an officer. The whole existence of the Ministry is for the purpose of controlling the officers under them. If they find that the officers had been guilty they should take steps to punish them, they should take steps to remove them. Sir, Mr. Hands' letter has been quoted to show that he is claiming to be an autonomous authority. Sir, I am surprised that the Chief Minister, who is also the Home Minister, should have been surprised at a claim like this. He knows very well that as far as the Inspector-General of Police is concerned and the Commissioner of Police is concerned appointments of Sub-Inspectors to the Bengal Police and to the Calcutta Police are entirely in the hands of the Inspector-General and the Commissioner of Police and that the Government has no right to interfere at all with the appointments that are made by them. It does mean that the Ministers have no control over them; it does mean that if officers are guilty of indiscretion in making appointmens by breach of rules action cannot be taken against them. Sir, I will point out later on whether the persons are really guilty or not but I want to maintain that as far as the Ministers are concerned they cannot shirk their responsibility by trying to put the blame on the permanent officials.

Sir, the whole trouble is that the Chief Minister and the Muslim Ministers, and, I am sorry to say, a representative of the Scheduled Castes on the Cabinet deliberately, knowingly and wilfully sacrificed the Muslim and the Scheduled Castes interests at the time when they agreed to suspend the Communal Ratio Rules, and allowed the following phraseology to be one of the conditions for appointment. I will now just read out an extract from a letter of Mr. A. S. Hands, A. R. P. Controller, to the Chief Minister and it is extraordinary that we have had a Government *communiqué* first stating that the Communal Ratio Rules had been suspended as far as A. R. P. appointments are concerned. When there was a howl and there was an agitation the Ministers came out with a *communiqué* that the Communal Ratio Rules applied to the A. R. P. appointments. Sir, the mystery of these two *communiqués* I will explain later on and in case I forget I hope

members will remind me about it. It is most illuminating. Sir, I ought to mention that not only injustice has been done to the Muslims and the Scheduled Castes but as far as the Anglo-Indians are concerned their claims also have been neglected.

Now, let me read extracts from Mr. Hands' letter—

"*Allegation (1)*.—That very grave discrimination has been shown against the Muslims in important A. R. P. appointments (offices of command). This allegation is entirely untrue and no discrimination has been shown against Muslims. Whenever sufficient and efficient Muslim candidates are available for offices of command they have been appointed." I hope members of the House will particularly note this and here I appeal to the members belonging to the Muslim Coalition Party and to the members of the Scheduled Castes. "This, I observe, is in accordance with the Cabinet decision referred to in the note of the Hon'ble Minister for Civil Defence Co-ordination, dated 22nd July, 1942, and endorsed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in his order, dated the 24th July, 1942, in Political Department file No. 5144 of 1942." But, Sir, there is something more just to make it absolutely clear that the Communal Ratio Rules were amended and that there was definite Cabinet decision. The actual language of the Cabinet decision is mentioned here, and it is this. Mr. Hands has written it: "*Allegation No. 4*:—It would be untrue to say that the required number of qualified Muslim candidates were not available for important appointments. My own view is that this allegation is incorrect and from an experience of interviewing Muslim candidates for offices of command I should say that sufficiently qualified men" or to use the expression in the Cabinet decision—"sufficient and efficient men for these posts are available." To show how I read the conclusion I must first give an idea about qualifications and qualities. At the age of 72, Sir, I do not think that the Hon'ble Chief Minister has for the first time heard that the word "efficient" as regards the Muslims and Scheduled Castes means practically barring the Muslims and the Scheduled Castes from appointments. As far as the Chief Minister is concerned, there is a signed article by him in the *Bengal Weekly* where he has thoroughly exposed and shown how these words have stood in the way of appointments of Muslims. It is for him now to get up and plead that he after all—(At this stage the blue light was lit.) Sir, I want some more time.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have allowed you the maximum time within my power. You have taken 30 minutes. If you want I can allow you 5 minutes more.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: May I submit to you, Sir, that the then Leader of Opposition, Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, was never interrupted while he was speaking and I can assure you, Sir, that if you look up the record if any record of the timings of different speakers is kept you will find that Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose was always given at least 50 minutes if he was speaking on important matters.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can take it that I will give the Leader of Opposition the maximum time within my power.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: There is no time-limit so far as you are concerned as regards the maximum time to be given.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: On a point of order, Sir. Under sub-rule (*4*) of rule 41 of the Assembly Procedure Rules you can allow a member who is not a mover or the Minister-in-charge of the Department to which the motion relates to speak for 15 minutes, but in the case of the Leader of Opposition 30 minutes time is allowed.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Biswas, I am supposed to know all this. Still I will allow him more time.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Now, Sir, as far as efficiency is concerned, it has been known that if this rule about efficiency did not stand in the way of appointments being made there would have been no need of having communal ratio rules. Minimum qualifications are prescribed, so that it does not give an opportunity to officers to prevent Muslims from being appointed. I maintain, Sir, that the moment the Hon'ble Chief Minister and his Muslim colleagues and the representative of the Scheduled Castes in the Cabinet agree to modify the Communal Ratio Rules they practically condemn the Muslim, Scheduled Caste and Anglo-Indian candidates, but, Sir, this is not all. Let us see how this has been done. The previous Ministry insisted that the Communal Ratio Rules should be observed, as far as appointments in the A. R. P. Services are concerned. When the new Ministry came, evidently they found .....(Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Who brought Mr. Hands?) Now, Sir, this is another mis-statement of fact. They have been told that Mr. Hands was brought by me as Controller. Sir, this is absolutely incorrect. If you will look up the record, you will find that the Hon'ble Chief Minister was in charge of the Home Department as I was then on leave. Mr. Rasik Lal Biswas also in his speech hinted at that. Mr. Hands was not brought by me but by the then Minister in charge of the Home Department. This is the kind of defence, Sir, put up in support of Government.

Now, Sir, you will find that the Ministry deliberately agreed to modify the Communal Ratio Rules. They have thus sacrificed the Muslims, but, Sir, there is another thing. The Hon'ble Minister says—I will read out this thing: "Perhaps his statutory discretion did not call for any such fairness. Even in the matter of lower jobs his direction is directly in contravention of the Communal Ratio Rules and legally the appointments which have been made in violation of these rules are liable to be cancelled. The responsibility of the Ministry to the public cannot be washed away by the specious plea of efficiency. I am definitely of the opinion that most of the candidates who had applied for appointments in the A. R. P. possess the requisite qualifications. Their legitimate claims have been ignored by the

haphazard and capricious manner in which the appointments were made. The recruitment to the various services in the A. R. P. organisation has not been made on any definite system. It is now for the public to judge." Sir, the Chief Minister is appealing to the public against his own officers. Can there be anything worse as far as demoralisation of the services is concerned, as far as good government is concerned? The Chief Minister says: "It is for the public to judge whether the stand taken by Mr. Hands can be justified. So far as I am concerned, I can assure the public that I won't allow the matter to rest at this and I propose to take steps to retrieve the wrong that has been done to the Muslim community and also to the Scheduled Caste community. I am publishing these extracts from the note of Mr. Hands to show how the charges brought against the Ministry are baseless. Unfortunately, the matter was far more serious to be allowed to rest here. Unable to bring Mr. Hands to my views I decided to take the whole case to the Cabinet. I publish below extracts from my note in support of my proposal to take the case to the Cabinet."

Now let us see what he has achieved. He says: "The matter was discussed in the Cabinet and although the Cabinet decision is confidential I am free to be able to announce (laughter by the Opposition members) that a satisfactory solution is in sight." I consider, Sir, that a statement of this kind is an insult to the intelligence of the members of this House, an insult to the supporters of Government. Sir, it is unfair that the Chief Minister should make an incorrect statement for the purpose of hoodwinking his supporters and trying to get over his temporary difficulties.

Sir, proceedings of Cabinet meetings are confidential, but the decisions are never confidential. The Cabinet decided that the Communal Ratio Rules should be observed. The Cabinet decided that such and such should be the Communal Ratio Rules. Is that a confidential document?

You have got to announce what the Cabinet decide. But he knows very well that there is no satisfactory solution. He knows that this is only practically deluding the members and the public by saying that a satisfactory solution is in sight. He deliberately withholds the Cabinet decision.

Now, Sir, I will come to another thing which I promised to explain—the little safe device by which first the Communal Ratio Rules were abrogated and then they were imposed. In this connection I would refer to the very wonderful communal harmony that is observed in the Cabinet. Sir, look at the beautiful picture that has been placed before us. Here are Muslim and Hindu Cabinet Ministers working loyally together and the Hindu Minister-in-charge of A. R. P. and Civil Defence we find has taken no steps whatever, has done nothing and has not lifted his little finger to see that the injustice done to the Muslims, Scheduled Castes and Anglo-Indians is in any way rectified. He is never even troubled about it. He has seen before that a large number of appointments are going to the Caste Hindus to the exclusion of Muslims and Scheduled Castes. He first of all got the Communal Ratio Rules abrogated. The appointments have been made and the posts have been filled and then as the saying is after the horse is stolen from the stable the stable is locked. After all the appointments have been made,

when there is a great deal of agitation, they all meet and say "we must do justice to the Muslim community." Here is a beautiful solution in sight "we reintroduce the Communal Ratio Rules". In future as far as the A. R. P. appointments are concerned, they will be observed. There are no apponitments to be made. All the big and major appointments have been already filled and now the Communal Ratio Rules are going to be observed. Look at the communal harmony, look at the national spirit they have shown for the purpose of A. R. P. services. What does it matter if the Muslims are not there? They have agreed to the question of efficiency. That is all what a true nationalist should do. The Muslim interests and the Scheduled Caste interests should not matter. We must have efficient men. We must have responsible and good men. Therefore we have amended the rules and allowed the appointments to be filled by non-Muslims and then when there is agitation, of course Dr. Mookerjee, Mr. S. K. Basu and Mr. Banerjee say "we must do justice to the Muslims" and they are doing it by having Communal Ratio Rules again so that in future the Muslims should get justice.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Shall I interject that the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition is relying on his prolific imagination?

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Then there is another thing. First of all this refers only to Mr Hands. There are other Controllers who have also made appointments, and we find nothing about them in this note. But evidently shelter is taken in the Ordinance under which the appointments are made. When was it that the Chief Minister started looking into these things? On the 13th of July he asked Mr. Hands why these appointments had been made. Mind you, by that time, the horse has been stolen. The purse has been taken and there is nothing left. That is the time when the Chief Minister wakes up. All the appointments were made in March, April, May and June. He knows very well that the Muslims were not being appointed. I could have said that the Controller did not listen to him because he sent recommendations to the Controller. That is another pernicious principle which the present Ministry is doing, sending recommendations to subordinate officers. If the Ministers go with hats in their hands to their subordinate officers, how can they expect any respect from these officers? If they want their relations, their friends and other people whom they want to patronise to get jobs how can you expect any self-respecting official to have any respect for the Ministers? When he gives an appointment to a relaton of a Minister, he expects that in future the Minister will practically ditto whatever he does. In this document Mr. Hands has stated the names of persons who have gone to him with the recommendation of the Chief Minister and the Nawab Bahadur of Dacca and naturally the Controller has not taken them because he finds that men have been sent by the Ministers, because they are relations of the Ministers, because they are friends of the Ministers and because they are relations of the Chief Whip. It is that kind

of people that are sent. I maintain, Sir, that this plea that these appointments have been made by an autonomous body is wrong. We find—let alone taking any steps beforehand—even when he came to know of this on the 13th July and when he got a reply from Mr. Hands, that this matter was not taken to the Cabinet. He should have gone to the Cabinet and said "Here is this man who won't carry out our policy" and what is more he should have taken that stand not because it concerned the interests of Muslims, Scheduled Castes and Anglo-Indians but because it was a question affecting the safety and security of this province. If there is a severe air raid on Calcutta as there was on Rangoon, and if we find that the Muslims have not received sufficient protection there will be serious disorder. I maintain that the safety of the province is at stake. This point of view was never placed before the Controller by the Chief Minister or any other Minister. He could have taken this matter to the Cabinet and got its consent to redress the injustice done to the Muslims and Scheduled Castes. They could have pressed the Chief Minister who had the power and the authority to transfer Mr. Hands from that post and to appoint a man of his own choice who would carry out their policy. I know the reply may be given by some of them who have been tutored that the Governor might have intervened. If the Governor had intervened, the Government should have gone with an ultimatum and even then if the Governor would not listen he might have followed the example of his great friend, the Chief Minister of another province—I am referring to Mr. Allah Buksh—and come up to this House and said "I cannot discharge my responsibility because the Governor is interfering in the discharge of my duties." I won't ask him to resign. That he will never do. At least he could have done this. He could have come and told us as Mr. Allah Buksh did in Sind "the Governor is interfering in the discharge of my duties". Sir, actually he is not trying to rectify this wrong. I maintain first of all he deliberately sacrificed the interests of Muslims and the Scheduled Castes and Anglo-Indians and then when he found that there was a lot of trouble and agitation, he is trying to prepare a defence and hoodwink his supporters by coming out with a document which is full of inconsistencies and which practically gives the whole case away. And what is more he is guilty of pillorying a permanent official and appealing to the public against that official. I particularly draw the attention of the European Group who always adopt an attitude of the high and mighty and who always profess themselves to be in favour of good Government. This is a test of their profession and this is a test whether they do possess any backbone at all and whether they have got the courage to condemn a Minister who has been guilty of such a serious breach of rule and such a serious breach of principle and who is corrupting the public services.

Now, Sir, there is another thing to which I wish to refer, and after that I will finish my speech. The Hon'ble Minister started making an enquiry from Mr. Hands on the 13th July, and we find from Mr. Hand's reply that on the 22nd July he signed a note sent by Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu by which the Communal Ratio Rules were amended by the addition of the

words "provided sufficient and efficient Muslim and Scheduled Caste candidates are available for appointment." May I ask, Sir, why did the Hon'ble Minister allow an endorsement for the amendment of the Communal Ratio Rules after he had instituted an enquiry on the 22nd July? The authority for my statement is here. What does this mean, Sir? It means that on the one hand he has tried to satisfy the members of his party by means of this secret circular which he had prepared and on the other hand he subscribed to the modification of the Communal Ratio Rules so that while he practically reaffirmed it—it was a modification made long ago when the Minister in charge submitted his explanation as to why this should be done and he accepted that explanation with reference to the modification of the Communal Ratio Rules—and now the same Chief Minister comes up before the public again saying that in spite of the Communal Ratio Rules these appointments have been made by the permanent official concerned——

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: What are the exact words of the modification?

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The words are "provided sufficient and efficient Muslim and Scheduled Caste candidates are available". The original rule prescribed a minimum qualification which, provided the candidate could satisfy, could not debar him from getting the appointment. But once you place the power in the hands of the permanent official by providing a clause that he will judge who is efficient and who is not, then from our experience of the last 30 years we know that it will have no effect at all. We know from past experience that in superseding the claims of a Muslim candidate it is urged, if he is senior, that he is not efficient and if he is efficient, he is not senior. Even to-day that thing is going on, as far as promotion is concerned, and a senior Muslim is superseded by a junior non-Muslim on the ground of efficiency, and an efficient Muslim is superseded by a senior non-Muslim on the ground of seniority. Such things have been going on in hundreds of cases. The Chief Minister knows it quite well and no one knows better than he; and even knowing it he has allowed it to go on as usual. I therefore appeal through you, Sir, to the Muslim and Scheduled Caste members opposite. I ask them to remember that one day they will have to face the election in this world and in the other world they will have to answer for what they do now as representatives of their communities. Sir, a deliberate injustice has been done knowingly and yet the Chief Minister took no steps to stop it. Although that has been his experience during the last five years of his Chief Ministership and of his forty years of public life, he agreed to the amendment being made knowing full well what the result of the amendment would be. He may say that he will try to rectify the mistake although he knows that he will never be able to rectify it, because the officer making such appointments has the fullest discretion in the matter. Whatever he thought best he was entitled to do and that he has done. The Ministry cannot do anything and yet he was trying to bluff his party then and he wanted to evade a debate on the question on the

plea that the document was confidential. But you, Sir, have done us a great justice on this occasion by allowing us to refer to that document in connection with this debate.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I ask the Hon'ble the Chief Minister to reply to the debate it is only fair that an opportunity should be given to the Hon'ble Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee and the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu to speak. It was also fair to allow a member of the European group to speak because that group may naturally desire to explain the attitude they are going to adopt. If you all agree, I will suggest that Sir Henry Birkmyre will speak first and then the Hon'ble Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee and the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu will speak and if you think necessary I will then allow the Leader of the Opposition again to speak on the subject after Sir Henry Birkmyre, Dr. Mookerjee and Mr. Basu have spoken. The Hon'ble the Chief Minister will then make his final reply.

Mr. K. NOORUDDIN: I suggest, let the *de facto* Chief Minister close the debate.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. I suggest that after we hear Sir Henry Birkmyre and the Hon'ble Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee and the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu, if the Leader of the Opposition so desires, he may speak and then the Hon'ble the Chief Minister will speak last of all. Has the Leader of the Opposition any objection to this arrangement?

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I thank you, Sir, for this arrangement.

Sir HENRY BIRKMYRE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have heard with considerable surprise the figures for the communal proportions in the A. R. P. services quoted by Opposition members. If these figures are true, it is certainly very regrettable that the Muslim community and the Scheduled Caste community should be so poorly represented in the personnel of the A. R. P. services. The lives of Hindus, Muslims, Christians, members of all communities are threatened alike by air raids and all communities should co-operate in the working of the A. R. P. services.

The motion asks the House to disapprove of the non-application by Government of the Communal Ratio Rules in A. R. P. appointments. We would suggest that however much we may desire that all communities should be properly represented in the A. R. P. services, any rigid application of the Communal Ratio Rules would be fatal to the efficiency of these services. In the first place, A. R. P. appointments must be made immediately. They cannot wait until suitable candidates of a particular community come forward, otherwise we may find that when air raids occur we have no A. R. P. services. In the second place, in a service which is concerned with the saving of human lives efficiency must be the primary consideration. In other words, we must have the best men available, if possible drawn from

every community, but, if not, irrespective of their community. In the third place, A. R. P. is a semi-military organisation and we must leave it in the hands of the heads of these services to choose the best men available. Any attempt to fetter their hands in matters of appointment and dismissal of members of their services would, in our opinion, be fatal to efficiency. We do not for one moment suggest that suitable Muslim candidates cannot be found for A. R. P. appointments: what we do suggest is that suitable Muslims have not come forward in sufficient numbers for these appointments——(Loud noise from the Opposition benches and also cries of "withdraw, withdraw".)

Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI: On a point of order, Sir. Is it permissible for any member of this House to cast any reflection on an entire community? I submit that Sir Henry Birkmyre has chosen to cast a reflection on the Muslim community and I appeal through you, Sir, to him to withdraw that remark.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In the midst of the uproar it was impossible for me to hear the exact words used but if it was a reflection on the whole community, certainly he will withdraw.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Will Sir Henry Birkmyre deny that he used the words "suitable Muslim candidates are not available"?

Sir HENRY BIRKMYRE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, may I repeat what I have said? I said, what we do suggest is that suitable Muslims have not come forward in sufficient numbers for these appointments.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is all right.

Sir HENRY BIRKMYRE: May I make it perfectly clear? I repeat. We do not for one moment suggest that suitable Muslim candidates cannot be found for A. R. P. appointments. What we do suggest is that suitable Muslims have not come forward in sufficient numbers for these appointments. It is not sufficient, in our opinion, for the Opposition to quote figures showing the poor representation of the Muslim and the Scheduled Caste communities in the A. R. P. services. If we are to judge the matter properly, they must give us the numbers of Muslim candidates who came forward for the different posts in the A. R. P. services, and also show that these Muslims satisfied the test of the best men available.

We also think that the Muslim League Party in raising this question are bound to answer another question and that is what have they done to encourage members of their own community to join the A. R. P. services. We are not aware of any speeches by members of the Muslim League Party exhorting members of their own community to join the A. R. P. services. On the other hand we do know that they have adopted an attitude of non-co-operation with any Government organisation, and we do know that they

are organising their own Civil Defence Services and National Defence Guards. Moreover, we do know that the Leader of the Opposition refused to serve on the Central A. R. P. Committee, and we understand that similarly members of the Muslim League have refused to serve on the Sub-Area Committees in Calcutta. Since the Muslim League Party have raised this question, we would only ask if they are prepared to do what they can to assist in seeing that suitable Muslim candidates do come forward for the A. R. P. services.

In conclusion, we would stress that we do think that it is most regrettable that the Muslim and Scheduled Caste communities are so poorly represented in the A. R. P. Services, but we do not consider that the remedy lies in the strict application of the Communal Ratio Rules. In this matter the tendency appears to be for the Opposition to throw the blame on Government and for Government to throw the blame upon their officers, but surely in actual fact the remedy lies in the hands of the leaders of the Muslim and Scheduled Caste communities. If they will co-operate in exhorting their followers to join the A. R. P. services and will see that suitable candidates from their communities do come forward, then we think that the matter can soon be remedied. We would emphasise, however, that we must have the best men available, irrespective of community, and if the efficiency of the A. R. P. services is not to be impaired, then we must be content to leave the question of appointments and dismissals in the hands of the Heads of these Services. If the Heads of the Services are not carrying out their duties fairly and efficiently, then Government have their own remedy, but they should not attempt to throw the blame on their own officers for whose actions they are responsible.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had no desire to take part in this debate because my leader the Hon'ble Chief Minister is going to wind it up in the way that he considers proper and suitable. But, Sir, my name has been dragged into this debate by the honourable the Leader of the Opposition to whose speech I have listened with the respect that it deserves. In spite of that I would not have thought of intervening had his speech not been interspersed here and there with mis-statements and half-truths and had not succeeded in raising a miasma of suspicion and prejudice which, it is necessary, should be scotched at this stage.

I know, Sir, that a considerable amount of misapprehension has been caused by the somewhat inconclusive manner in which the portfolio, which has been created and has been entrusted to me, has been named, namely, Civil Defence Co-ordination. The word "Co-ordination" has been conveniently or honestly or unconsciously dropped in the mind of most people when they deal with me as the Minister in charge. I desire to make it known, if it is not already known, to members of this House or to the public outside that "Civil Defence Co-ordination" does not mean the same thing as civil defence itself. The work of co-ordination has been confined to acceleration

of the work of civil defence which has been undertaken by different departments, each entrusted with the particular charge committed to its care under the Rules of Business. The Communications and Works Department, for instance, are entrusted with the work of maintaining or making roads for the purpose of civil defence; the Revenue Department, for instance, are entrusted with work of evacuation and relief. Other departments might have similarly been entrusted, such as the Public Health Department or the Local Self-Government Department. It is the duty of the Minister in charge of the Civil Defence Co-ordination to accelerate the work that is being carried on in different departments with powers entrusted to the Ministers in charge so far as it lies in their hands to exercise such powers under the law. The Minister in charge of Civil Defence Co-ordination is only called upon to accelerate the work, to find that it is not impeded anywhere in order that the work may proceed smoothly and quickly. He has got no powers to pass any order with regard to matters entrusted to these departments, such as the matter of making appointments in the A. R. P. services which technically has been entrusted to the Home Department under the Home Minister. Therefore, when it is said that the Minister in charge is responsible for making such and such appointments, that cannot possibly refer to me who is in charge only of Civil Defence Co-ordination and nothing more.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, I rise on a point of order. This Civil Defence Co-ordination and acceleration work is a Provincial and not a Central responsibility.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Acceleration of civil defence or co-ordination is undoubtedly a provincial responsibility. (Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Therefore joint.) Joint, or several or single, I am not concerned with that. It is a responsibility which has been entrusted to the Provincial Government undoubtedly, and the Provincial Government will do everything that lies in its power to discharge that responsibility.

Now, Sir, the misapprehension under which my friends have always laboured is that it is the Civil Defence Co-ordination Minister who is responsible for all the ills under the sun in the matter of appointments, whereas the real truth is that not a single appointment comes to him for orders and he has no power whatsoever to make any appointment at all. (Interruptions.)

Please hold your soul in patience. I know, Sir, that a reference has been made to an occasion on which certain Staff Officers were appointed in Calcutta, and I am glad to have this opportunity of making my position clear with regard to which a lot of cloud has been raised in certain interested quarters. Staff Officers were appointed when the system of Honorary Chief Air Raid Wardns was abolished in this city and they were substituted by whole-time Staff Officers, and under the direction—or I should rather say—at the suggestion of the Central A. R. P. Committee the department

concerned was requested to make appointments as early as possible in order that training might be given to these new appointees before the crisis came which was considered to be imminent at the time. I was asked by the departmental Deputy Chief concerned to come right at the end of the selection proceedings to address a few words of advice and encouragement to the persons who would be selected or appointed. That was my only function and that was what legitimately and legally could be my own function on that occasion. I was asked to appear at the scene of these proceedings at a certain hour of the day, namely, at 3-30 p.m., when they considered that the whole proceedings would be over. I arrived at that place at the time appointed and I found about half-a-dozen persons still to be interviewed. I had not seen and I had not considered the applications of any of the other candidates, which I was not called upon to do under the laws and rules. Then when I found that they decided to take in only three Muslim candidates, I suggested that one more suitable candidate whom I saw should also be appointed and that suggestion was accepted by the Committee which was entrusted with the task of selection.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: On a point of order, Sir. In the name of honesty——(Uproar.)

(Cries of "Sit down" from the Coalition benches, and Mr. Siddiqi resumed his seat.)

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, on the floor of this House an untruth was uttered by a leading member of the Opposition, unconsciously I know—I give him that credit—but from his exuberance and enthusiasm I would rather retract that word "unconsciously". Well, Sir, he has gone to the length of suggesting—it is said at the instance of a member of the Committee—that I handed in a list. If that reference was intended for me as the alleged Minister in charge, if that was his information that I handed in a list of names of persons to be appointed, it is downright atrocious lie and is nothing else. (Uproar.)

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: We have seen several times——(Uproar.)

(Cries of "sit down" from the Coalition benches.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. I am warning you that if this sort of uproarious scene is repeated, I will have to go to the length of suspending the business of the day.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: On a point of order, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister has characterised the statement of a member of this House as an atrocious lie. According to your ruling, Sir, the words are unparliamentary. I would request you, Sir, to ask the Hon'ble Minister to withdraw the words.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Day before yesterday I ruled that the word "lie" was unparliamentary.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, as I have already made it perfectly clear to every independent member of this House, this expression was not used with reference to any member of this House but to the purveyors of lies outside who have given out lies for the purpose of misleading honourable members and for bamboozling them into making incorrect statements. It is those people whom I characterised as liars.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In view of the statement made I have no other alternative but to accept the statement of the Hon'ble Minister.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Will you give me a minute after the Hon'ble Minister has finished?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: That is the position so far as I am concerned. Then, Sir, a question has been raised and a reference has been made to a communication which I made to the Controller of A. R. P. in Calcutta. That communication was made by me and it is on record. After the Staff Officers were appointed it was brought to my notice that a large number of Muslims who might have been considered suitable have not been taken in. Though appointment is not my forte, still I thought that, in the interest of civil defence co-ordination, no particular community of such importance and influence as the Muslim community should be treated in the fashion in which it had been done. I thought that in the interest of harmonious work and progress of civil defence it was necessary for me to look into the matter and I asked the Controller to supply me with a list of the names of candidates who had been examined, the papers in which the advertisements were issued, the qualifications of the candidates and so on and so forth. I wanted to be satisfied that justice had been attempted to be done though, in fact, it was not done to the Muslim community. In reply to that query of mine, I was told that no list has been maintained and that the names of the candidates were not available. The papers in which the advertisements were issued were supplied to me but no further particulars or details by which any scrutiny or check could be exercised so far as the Muslim and Scheduled Caste candidates were concerned.

Now, Sir, it was in that communication that I had occasion to refer to the Cabinet decision which said that the Communal Ratio Rules would apply, provided sufficient and efficient candidates were available. Now, that was not my decision as the Leader of the Opposition was pleased to characterise. That was the Cabinet decision and I quoted the Cabinet decision as it was. I say, Sir, that I had every right to expect that sufficient and efficient Muslim candidates would be available, and the Cabinet also had every right to expect that sufficient and efficient Muslim candidates would be forthcoming. To those who say that it would be whittling down the claims and opportunities of the Muslim community if the word "efficient" is retained, I say they would be uttering the greatest calumny to the Muslim community. I say, Sir, that sufficient number of efficient Muslim candidates would be available

if only looked for in the proper way. The only grievance is that that has not been done. It is not a question of stabbing our officers behind the back; it is a question of laying facts before the House. The House must come to a decision suitable for the occasion.

The Leader of the Opposition seeing that the whole game is up and that the Ministry has done its very best to stand by the Muslim community has thought fit to make an utterly disingenuous attempt by getting hold of that document and trying to put a sinister meaning to it. That is a matter which will be dealt with by the Chief Minister. So far as I am concerned, I would say that the Muslim community does stand in need of much greater support in the A. R. P. services. On the 22nd July this Cabinet decision was reached when it was found that the departmental officers needed to be reminded once again, although that had been done before, that this is the policy they should pursue. As regards efficiency and sufficiency, I have already said that there was no apprehension that Muslim candidates would not be forthcoming in sufficient numbers. We have to remember at the same time the requirements of the A. R. P. services. We have to see that efficient men are appointed to protect our hearths and homes from the ravages of the enemy bomb. That is essentially necessary and that is what Government should always endeavour to achieve. At the same time, I declare that sufficient number of efficient Muslim and Scheduled Caste candidates can be obtained and shall be obtained at no distant date.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: May I, an atrocious liar, stand on a personal explanation?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That was the statement made by the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: I have been called an atrocious liar.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry I cannot give you an opportunity at this stage to offer any personal explanation.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Shall I get an opportunity later on?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Every member has a right to stand up on personal explanation if necessary.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Did it arise out of your speech?

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: It did arise out of my speech. The Hon'ble Minister referred to something which I had said yesterday. He called me a liar. Have I the right to stand on a personal explanation?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: I made a definite statement in the House yesterday to which the Hon'ble Minister took serious objection conveying to the House that the facts I had mentioned were incorrect and untrue. Have I in these circumstances the right to inform the House that my information was more correct than his statement? Have I got that right?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, you have got that right. You have done right by saying that what you said was correct and that what the Hon'ble Minister said was wrong.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Beyond saying that the statements made by the Hon'ble Minister are not correct, I want to say how I got my information and I am certain that when I have given these facts to the House, if the Hon'ble Minister has any generosity in him, he will tell me "Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, you are right". That is what I want.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I was listening to the speeches which were being made by the Opposition it struck me that my friends to the left were spoiling a case which was good by arguments which were bad and which were malicious to a certain extent.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Does he refer to the Chief Minister?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: I am referring to Mr. Siddiqi and his friends. I thought that when we were discussing a resolution on the A. R. P. services, Government would receive some constructive suggestions from the members of the Opposition regarding the present position of the A. R. P. services in this city and in the rest of the Province. As we were carrying on our discussions during the last two days, we seem to have forgotten that the war is very near at our gate. (Mr. YUSUF ALI CHAUDHURY: An old story.) It is an old story that has to be repeated until the Opposition come back to their senses.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: You have forgotten it too.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: I have not forgotten it. I am remembering it and therefore I am reminding you of it.

The big question is how all parties in the House, members representing the Government Party and members of the Opposition can put their heads together and secure an improvement in a system which is calculated to help the people of the province irrespective of caste, creed or community. Sir, let me come to the problem which has been raised by the motion moved by Mr. Suhrawardy. Now, Sir, what is the main charge which has been brought against Government? The main charge is that an adequate number of Muslims and Scheduled Castes have not been appointed to the A. R. P. services. So far as that proposition is concerned I don't think that there are any two opinions in this House. It is a matter of deep regret that the Communal Ratio Rules have not been observed with regard to the recruitment to the A. R. P. services.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Crocodile tears!

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: I do not know the particular animal in the Zoological Garden with which the interrupter identifies himself—crocodile, tiger or something of the lower species. It is for him to choose the animal he loves best. I shall leave him alone for the time being.

Now, Sir, it is no use denying facts and it is necessary that the Opposition should know what the facts are. The Leader of the Opposition to-day read out certain extracts from a leaflet which was marked confidential. As he was quoting them, for some moments I forgot that Sir Nazimuddin was the Leader of the Opposition. I felt that he was replying to the points raised on behalf of Government. Let us very briefly recapitulate how this particular matter has been dealt with by the Provincial Government. There is the Ordinance passed by the Governor-General of India controlling the A. R. P. services in the whole of India. It is not a matter which is entirely in the hands of the Provincial Government.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: I am sorry to interrupt the Hon'ble Minister. One Minister says that it is Provincial and another Minister that it is Central. What is the joke?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: The real joke is that my friend Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi on account of his advancing age is becoming more and more dense every day. That is the real truth.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: What about your leader of 72?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Leave him alone. Think of your own weakness.

The Governor-General's Ordinance (section 4) lays down that persons who are fit and willing can be appointed to the A. R. P. services in such number and by such authority as the Provincial Government may decide, the command posts to be filled by the Controller. When the matter came before Cabinet—I am not disclosing any Cabinet secrets—we all felt—it

was the unanimous decision—that the Communal Services Ratio Rules should apply. The attention of Cabinet was, however, drawn to the special and peculiar position that the A. R. P. services occupied. The language which we then adopted, viz., subject to efficient and sufficient men being forthcoming,—was nothing which was inconsistent with the Communal Services Ratio Rules. If you look at the Communal Services Ratio Rules, you will find that a provision does exist that appointments will be made, if qualified candidates are available. Now, Sir, has it been suggested by Sir Nazimuddin who has had a hand in the drafting of these Communal Services Ratio Rules that the rules themselves indicate—leave aside the A. R. P. services for the time being—that Muslims will not be appointed to the provincial services, simply because the expression "qualified" occurs there. It is no use trying to misrepresent the Government and particularly the Chief Minister. In fact, that has been the tragedy of the debate. The speeches which had been made were not so much directed towards obtaining a grievance, supposed or real, redressed. The real trouble was that at every step when the honourable members were speaking, Mr. Fazlul Huq was before their eyes like the veritable nightmare. They were shouting "the Hon'ble Chief Minister has done this and the Hon'ble Chief Minister has done that". At the same time when it suits their purpose, the very same members say "the Hon'ble Chief Minister is nobody". He has no power in the Government at all, he has no voice in the administration at all, but when things have to be condemned, it is the Chief Minister who is responsible for anything that has happened.

Now, Sir, so far as the Cabinet decision was concerned, every Minister —Hindu, Muslim, or of the Scheduled Caste—believed that a sufficient number of efficient men belonging to the Muslim and Scheduled Caste communities would be available.

Now, let us come to the next chapter of the story. The actual task of recruitment fell to a particular officer who is called the Chief Controller for the A. R. P. services. Now, here again, Sir, I would ask the honourable members of the House, the members of the Opposition, at any rate those who have still the courage of their own conviction, that the right of appointment vested in the officer himself and appointments were to be made by him in his discretion. Sir Nazimuddin had read out that particular passage from the notes of Mr. Hands. Sir Nazimuddin raised the question of the propriety of publishing a note which tried to transfer the responsibility to the permanent officials. Now, Sir, the responsibility for making the disclosure has really fallen on the Leader of the Opposition, the *ex*-Home Minister, and not on the Chief Minister. The document has not been made public, and if it has been made public on this day it has been made so by Sir Nazimuddin himself who bitterly complains against the wisdom of the Chief Minister in writing that leaflet. But why was that leaflet to be written? What was the necessity? The necessity was that the exact position had to be explained to the members—supporters and opponents, every one who honestly wanted to look at things exactly as they were. The position was this that under the rules and the Ordinance appointments were to be made

by the Chief Controller acting in his discretion. I am not blaming anybody here, I am not here holding anybody's brief in particular, but do look at the matter from his point of view. He feels, and he feels honestly, that he could not make the appointments because a sufficient number of qualified Muslims or Scheduled Castes were not available. At the same time his attitude was that he was not prepared to permit Government to interfere in the matter of appointments. He said that his power, whatever it might be, should not be interfered with. (MR. SYED ABDUL MAJID: What about the enquiry committee?) A Committee was proposed but it was pointed out by the Law officers of the Government that it was not open to Government to appoint a committee under the Ordinance passed by the Governor-General. (Loud noise from the Opposition benches.) I know my words will not appeal to you, but you have got to listen to the other point of view, and then as rational men you have got to come to the conclusion whether Government has deliberately done something which is against the interests of the Muslim and the Scheduled Caste communities. This was the position taken up. The Hon'ble the Chief Minister and his colleagues were naturally perturbed at the situation which had arisen. They were perturbed not merely because the Muslims and Scheduled Castes were not getting some appointments but the greater reason was that there could not be an efficient and organised A. R. P. service in the province if a particular community, particularly the community which was in the majority in the province, felt legitimately that its claims had not been recognised by the Government. Now that question was taken up at our party meeting, that question was discussed in Cabinet, and Cabinet reiterated its previous decision. It refused to accept the position. It did not at the same time question the motives of the gentlemen who were placed in charge. In fact, I do believe even now that if the proper procedure is adopted, if it is not made a party question, but if we all of us sit together and make it our business to find a number of qualified men from Muslim and Scheduled Caste communities, properly qualified men will be available; and that is the appeal I would like to make to the Leader of the Opposition. What is the object with which he has got this resolution brought before the House? Let me put him to the test. Is it to find out an imaginary grievance against Mr. Fazlul Huq? If that is so, he will never be able to achieve the end that he has in view. So far as the present matter is concerned, the Hon'ble the Chief Minister has done everything that a Muslim leader should do. If he was prevented from doing what he desired to do, it was due to a combination of circumstances over which he had no control. But what is the remedy? What the remedy will be, the Chief Minister himself will explain; I have no desire to anticipate it. But I would only say this that we are already looking into this matter. We have reconsidered the position. Whether we had differed from the permanent officials or the Governor, whether the Chief Minister will make a statement before the House or not are matters which I do not propose to discuss. Future events will show as to how we propose to establish our rights, but if the Chief Minister permits me I can say that this much we have agreed to, that the additional number of recruits to the A. R. P. services which will now be made will be thrown open to the Muslims and the Scheduled Castes without

any encroachment on those services by any other community. And I, speaking as a Hindu, say that we should welcome the services and co-operation of all others in this respect. Our success will depend on the co-operation which we receive from the Opposition but if it is made a party question there will be difficulties. I am sure this discussion has led to this useful result that every one realises that there is a strong feeling of grievance, legitimate grievance, amongst various sections of the House at the manner in which these appointments have been made. What we propose to do is this that so long we are assured that efficient men will be forthcoming, and we have reason to believe that men who are qualified will be available, the appointments which will be made and which may rise up to 500 or even may go to a thousand will be thrown open to the members of the communities who have naturally felt that their claims have not been recognised.

Now, Sir, how that is to be done is a question of detail which the Chief Minister may or may not be in a position to disclose but the net result will be disclosed to the House today and the decision which the Chief Minister will communicate will not be a decision of his alone but a decision of all members of Cabinet and of all members of the Progressive Coalition Party.

Now, Sir, if in spite of all this the Leader of the Opposition says that he will have to persist with his resolution then, of course, the reasons for his doing so will be something other than looking after the interests of the Muslims. Now, therefore, we put the Leader of the Opposition to test. After hearing the Leader of the House, when he will declare the policy, which will make it clear how the Government tried to do justice, but how Government failed and how Government propose to look into the matter in future, I hope the Leader of the Opposition, in spite of the advice of some of his party followers, will rise equal to the occasion and withdraw the motion which he has proposed on behalf of the Opposition.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sir Nazimuddin, if you like you can now criticise the speeches of Sir Henry Birkmyre, Mr. Basu and Dr. Mookerjee.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, as far as the speech of Sir Henry Birkmyre is concerned, it is a speech which we all anticipated and it has not surprised us. It is the usual thing, and I will not take much time in commenting on it beyond stating that the group or the community which employ thousands and thousands of men in their offices and which have admitted more than once that they have never been able to secure appointment of Muslims in their offices, because however efficient a Muslim may be he cannot remain in office because he is always found inefficient. Naturally I can understand how this word "efficient" prevents a Muslim from being appointed. Therefore it is useless to deal with that, but, Sir, I maintain that as far as my charges against the Ministry are concerned they have been admitted by the two Hon'ble Ministers who have spoken before me. There may be an impression, Sir, that when the Muslim community object to the clause "efficient" it is because they want that inefficient Muslims should be appointed. That is absolutely wrong. It is

possible that the Hon'ble Caste Hindu Ministers may not be able to appreciate the point, but I am certain that the Hon'ble the Chief Minister and his Muslim colleagues and the members belonging to the Muslim Coalition Progressive Party and the members belonging to the Scheduled Caste Party fully understand the significance of the term "sufficient and efficient". There is no misunderstanding in their minds that by the amendment of the Communal Ratio Rules and the inclusion of the words "sufficient and efficient" Muslims will not receive appointments, and they could have said that before as soon as the Cabinet decided it. The results have shown that it is so. Sir, even the Hon'ble Finance Minister and the Hon'ble Minister for Civil Defence Co-ordination admitted that they did not believe that qualified Muslims did not come forward and that efficient Muslims did not come forward. But they were not appointed. It shows that when this thing was brought in it was brought in deliberately, and here again we condemn not only the Chief Minister but the Muslim Ministers, each one of them, that they knew what was going to be the result and they allowed the amendment to be made.

Sir, the previous Communal Ratio Rules laid down qualifications for Muslims also. They laid down minimum qualifications for appointment and that was the real safeguard, because if a Muslim or a Scheduled Caste member or an Anglo-Indian with minimum qualification was not appointed we could get hold of the appointing authority and take him to task. At the present time even the Hon'ble the Finance Minister, the Hon'ble Minister for Civil Defence Co-ordination cannot take that officer to task once they have put down that term "sufficient and efficient". That is where the mischief comes in and no Government can take an officer to task. You have given him the discretion to appoint; it is his judgment whether a particular man is, in his opinion, efficient or not which will prevail, and if you can question his *bonâ fides* then and then only you take him to task; otherwise the Hon'ble Ministers have no right, have no justification to criticise that officer. He may have made mistakes but you have put him in that position, you have given him that power. (The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: The Ordinance.) That is again an excuse and merely an attempt to cloud the issue and throw dust in the eyes of the members. I maintain that if you had not amended the Communal Ratio Rules, if you had laid down the minimum qualifications, no amount of Ordinance could have prevented the Minister from taking to task the appointing authority—Mr. Hands or any other officer. You could have then put your finger and say, "Here is A, may be recommended by the Chief Minister or may be his relation, but he possesses the minimum qualification; merely because he is a relation of the Chief Minister he should not be ruled out." You could then have taken him to task for not appointing that man, but once you remove that and place the question whether a particular man is efficient or not in his discretion the entire responsibility is his and you are absolutely helpless. What is the use now crying after the horse has gone out from the stable. You are responsible for it, you have deliberately done it, and now you come and plead ignorance and blame the officer concerned for this. I ask the members of the Progressive Coalition Party belonging to

the Muslim and Scheduled Caste communities to put their hands on their hearts and say whether they are not convinced that immediately the word "efficient" was put in and the Communal Ratio Rules were amended the Muslims were sacrificed and the Scheduled Castes with them. After all what was the necessity of this amendment unless there was something there, unless there was a motive, unless there was a deliberate desire to deprive the Muslims and the Scheduled Castes of their due share? I repeat again, if the previous Communal Ratio Rules provided for qualified people to be appointed, if everybody was satisfied, if at least people for whose benefit they were made were satisfied, then why do you come and change them?

I agree entirely with the Hon'ble Finance Minister that we must not forget that there is a war on, we must not forget the danger that threatens the town, and it is all the more reason why I am honestly and genuinely convinced that injustice has been done by debarring an entire community from an organisation so important, so vitally necessary for the safety of the province. I say there are hundreds and hundreds of qualified Muslims, hundreds and hundreds of efficient Muslims who could have been appointed. Sir Henry Birkmyre said that they were not forthcoming. I ask, was any attempt made, were the Opposition approached, were representative organisations approached, was a communication made to any recognised and responsible Muslim Association saying that here are these posts, produce your men? I have always maintained that this is one of the most common excuses. Every Muslim who has been in public life, who has taken any interest at all, knows that for the last 20 years whenever this question has come up it was said that Muslims are not available.

But, Sir, why not give the responsible men of the community a chance? They have never done it and now the Hon'ble Finance Minister comes and says, "here is an opportunity, come and co-operate." The majority of the posts have been filled up and now for a few appointments he says "come and co-operate." Sir, I maintain that we cannot but press this resolution. Of course we have got to hear the Chief Minister. His speech may influence our decision, but as the matter stands and so far as we have heard from the two Hon'ble Ministers there is nothing to change our decision. Sir, deliberate injustice has been done and this is entirely due to the action of the two Ministers and what is more there are no records as to the number of Muslims who came, whether they were qualified or not, and all that. I maintain, Sir, that this is not the point; the point is that it is due to the fault of the Hon'ble Finance Minister and other Ministers that the number of Muslims that have been appointed are very few. Sir, very real injustice has been done and I maintain that it is due entirely to their deliberate action, because they amended the Communal Ratio Rules.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, what is going to be done by the European Group? The stand which they have taken has been demolished by the two Ministers. What are they going to do?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not know (laughter).

Mr. A. F. STARK: On a point of order, Sir. May I put a question to Mr. Suhrawardy through you, Sir?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not a point of order.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, I have been a patient listener during the last two days and I confess that I have been surprised that Sir Nazimuddin should have caught the contagion, by sitting close to Mr. Suhrawardy, of introducing into a serious debate not merely a personal element but also invectives, innuendoes, insinuations, perversions of facts utterly unworthy of the position he holds as Leader of the Opposition in this House.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I have not said anything personal.

(Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy rose to speak and there was an uproarious scene.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will again request you that there should not be any interruption.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: When yesterday I gave my consent to this particular motion being brought up for discussion in the House, I knew that Mr. Suhrawardy was incapable of making a speech without consulting his dictionary of invectives, but I confess once again that I was surprised that Sir Nazimuddin should have caught the contagion (uproar). However, I am here (again uproar), I am here to hear and to put up with your views, because I know, being the Chief Minister here through the mercy of Providence, I have disappointed the hopes of many a politician. I know, Sir, that what the opposition members speak they speak from anguish of mind, in agony and torture. (Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Now speak about the subject.) The anguish is personal and the invectives are also directed from a personal point of view. Sir Nazimuddin denies that he was personal in his attack. Sir, no criminal will ever be convinced that he has committed a crime (uproar).

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has wasted ten minutes' time of this House——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down (uproar).

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Now, Sir, I will point out where it is that the debate has fallen below the level of that dignity which should be associated with discussions carried on in the Legislative Assembly of the Province and on a subject of such grave importance not merely relating to this or that community but also to the administration of the whole province.

Sir, before I come to discuss that document, that stolen document, which Sir Nazimuddin placed before the House, may I point out that the resolution itself is incorrectly worded, because it raises an issue which is not justified by admitted facts. The resolution says, "That this Assembly is of opinion that the non-application by Government of the Communal Ratio Rules to the appointments made in the various paid A. R. P. services and the Fire Fighting Services resulting in the almost complete exclusion of Muslims and the Scheduled Castes from those services should be disapproved"; or in other words, the resolution recommends that the crime that has been committed by the Government by not applying its Communal Ratio Rules, should be disapproved. Now, Sir, I wish to point out to Sir Nazimuddin that none of these appointments had been made by Government as such. Sir Nazimuddin knows very well and my friend Mr. Suhrawardy knows it quite as well, that according to the Government of India Act and the Public Service Commission Rules, appointments made by the Government have to pass through the Public Service Commission except in those cases which the Public Service Commission Rules may deliberately and purposely exclude from the purview of the Commission. Section 266 of the Government of India Act is clear, and it lays down among other things that on all matters relating to methods of recruitment to civil services and for civil posts, the Public Service Commission shall be consulted. It is well-known that except in those cases which, under rule 31, are excluded from the purview of the Public Service Commission, all appointments made by Government must come through the scrutiny of the Public Service Commission.

It is not alleged because it is not a fact that in any of these appointments the Public Service Commission had been consulted. They could not be consulted, because the appointments were not Government appointments. I do not, by saying this, absolve myself or my colleagues from the responsibility of seeing that the subordinate officials who made the appointments had carried out in its entirety the policy laid down by Government. I will come to that later. And here may I point out to Sir Henry Birkmyre that it is not the intention of the Government to throw the blame on the officials. It is not a question of throwing blame, but it is a matter in which when the resolution definitely charges the Minister to have made the appointments in contravention of the rules I should place before the House facts which will show that it is not the Government that made the appointments and that therefore the Government as such cannot be censured for the non-application of the Communal Ratio Rules, although I admit that the Communal Ratio Rules have not been strictly observed and to that extent the officials who had made the appointments had departed from the policy laid down by Government. But as to whether they have done it wilfully or under a misapprehension or for some other reason, are questions of an entirely different character. I appeal to the members of the Opposition to realise that there are two ways of looking at these questions. I do not wish to give them any offence. Things are ordained by Providence and Providence has so ordained that through His mercy I enjoy a clear majority in the House—not only a majority but, may God

forgive me if I am vain or proud, such a majority that the Opposition do not dare to bring in a motion of "No-confidence". They do not dare to table an Adjournment motion either, but they are trying to indulge in side attacks to rouse communal passions.

(Cries of "Oh" "oh" from the Opposition Benches.)

May I point out to the members of the Opposition that these interruptions will lead to two things. I will go on till the members are compelled to break their hearts on this issue.

(Interruptions from the Opposition Benches.)

There are many Nawabs, Nawab Bahadurs, Rajas and Khwajas in the Opposition——

Mr. YUSUF ALI CHAUDHURY: A Khwaja is with you.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The only Nawab Bahadur in the House is in the Cabinet.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Now, Sir, as I was saying, in their despair they are trying to rouse the passions of the multitude outside and to appeal to the communal passions of the Muslims and the Scheduled Castes and induce them by some means or other to——

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Is it rousing communal passion?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Yes, it is. I am not going to learn the English language from anybody.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: We want communal justice.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: By chance they may induce someone, somewhere, some waverers to go over and vote with them. Through the mercy of Providence I feel that I am quite able to announce in this House that not one single member of my party will waver. They all stand fast and loyally by me and they have the fullest confidence in me. This Government is strong enough to rectify that wrong and to make ample amends for the injustice that has been done to the Muslims and the Scheduled Castes.

Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA: When the Leader of the Opposition was speaking we never interrupted him, but when the Leader of the House is speaking why do the members of the Opposition interrupt him?

Mr. YUSUF ALI CHAUDHURY: Because he is talking nonsense.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. I would appeal to Sir Nasimuddin to help me in maintaining order. I repeatedly asked members

not to interrupt the Chief Minister in that fashion. If honourable members continue interrupting I shall be compelled to take necessary action in this respect and I hope this will be the last warning.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Remarks have been made more than once about the stable door being shut after the horse has been stolen. So I say here and now that neither the horse has been stolen nor is the stable door shut. You will find that there are other horses to run also and when there are enough riders, there will be no difficulty in making proper use of them. Let me come to the resolution itself. As I have said, the appointments were not made by Government. As has been pointed out, the appointments had been made by the Controller in Calcutta and by the proper appointing authorities outside Calcutta, according to the rules laid down—and this is important—according to the Ordinance and according to instructions issued by the Provincial Government from time to time. One of those instructions was to the effect that the Communal Ratio Rules should be observed. Now, Sir, a good deal has been said about the words "sufficient" and "efficient".

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: May I remind you——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is also interruption. I won't allow any interruptions whatsoever.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I hope the House will bear with me for a moment when I say a few words as regards the mysterious words "efficient" and "sufficient". Now Sir, let us remember that we are dealing with services which are not normal services of the Province——

(There were again interruptions.)

Are my words so galling that members cannot listen properly?

Let us remember that these posts are not normal posts. These services and these posts were created by the Special Ordinance of the Governor-General,—posts which the Controller and other authorities consider in their discretion to be subordinate posts and as to which they have got complete discretion in the manner in which appointments are to be made. This is not the time, this is not the occasion for having charges and counter-charges by trying to excite feelings amongst us as if nothing is going to happen around us. We would have thought that if anybody is sincere in his profession at this moment, if he is willing to aid the war effort, he will do nothing to rouse the public feelings against an important department that exists for the purpose of helping the war effort, that he will do nothing which would embarrass the officials who according to their own light have been trying to discharge their duties——. (Loud noise from Opposition Benches.)

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: *This argument is useless.*

(At this stage when Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi rose on his legs, the Hon'ble Minister resumed his seat.)

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: The Hon'ble Minister has sat down presumably because he has nothing further to say. (Laughter from the Opposition Benches.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. It is impossible for me to conduct the proceedings of the House properly if unnecessary and uncalled-for interruptions are made in this fashion. I have repeatedly appealed to the Leader of the Opposition to ask his members to behave properly, but nothing has been done to that effect. If the Opposition members behave in this way when the Leader of the House is making a statement for their edification, I must tell them that I will not tolerate such interruptions any more—neither from my left nor from my right. I am really very sorry that a prominent and responsible member having full knowledge of parliamentary practice—I mean, Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi—has been interrupting the business of the House in a fashion which is not worthy of him. I appeal again to honourable members on both sides not to make any interruption when the Leader of the House is making an important statement.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: I apologise most humbly and respectfully, Sir, but the arguments he was making were such that I could not restrain myself.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The argument may be good, bad or indifferent, but it is you who have asked the Chief Minister to give a reply. It is at the request of the members of your side of the House that the Hon'ble the Chief Minister is making his statement. You are at liberty to approve it or disapprove it, but you must give him a patient hearing without interruptions and without any disturbance.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I would ask you, Sir, just to see that the Hon'ble the Chief Minister does give a proper reply and does not indulge in irrelevancy.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a matter absolutely for me to decide and you have nothing to do with that. (Loud noise from the Opposition.)

Maulvi ABDUL HASHIM: On a point of explanation, Sir. I beg to submit that the manner in which the Hon'ble the Chief Minister suddenly sat down a minute ago showed that he was not at all serious in making a proper reply.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is no explanation for what has or has not been done by the Chief Minister.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Let me, Sir, point out that the word "efficiency" is a mysterious term and many meanings attach to it, and although I am not satisfied at the manner in which the Controller of Calcutta has made these appointments, I find that he at any rate has also a nice appreciation of the meaning of the word "efficiency", when he made appointments to the posts of Officer-in-charge, Wardens' Service, carrying the high salary of Rs. 350, by giving one of the four appointments, two of which have gone to Muslims, to the brother-in-law of Mr. Shahabuddin, which is the only qualification he has got——

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. May I know from the Hon'ble the Chief Minister whether the person concerned is not the younger brother of the Hon'ble the Nawab Bahadur of Dacca?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: There is a Bengali proverb which for the edification of the European gentlemen here I will translate into English. There was a quarrel between a needle and a seive, the seive condemning the needle for its hole, and the needle retorting, "My God, I have got only one hole but you have hundreds." The same is the position here and it does not matter whether he is a relation of the Nawab Bahadur of Dacca or of Mr. Shahabuddin.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: But the point is that the Nawab Bahadur is in the Ministry and is able to control matters while Mr. Shahabuddin cannot.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Now, Sir, Sir Nazimuddin has read out extracts from the confidential document and he has said that it is extremely unseemly that I am appealing to the public against the conduct of officials whom I could not control. The position was this. When I came to know from reports given to me by candidates who had offered themselves for appointment and who had not been selected, I wrote to the proper authorities on the 13th July for certain facts. I thought, Sir, that before I should take any action I ought to have authenticated facts before me. Having got those facts I pointed out to the officers concerned that the Communal Ratio Rules should apply and that a departure from the observance of the Communal Ratio Rules was not justified because sufficient and efficient Muslims were forthcoming. Now Sir, I found out then that a very wrong procedure had been adopted. That was the reason why they could not get the requisite number of Muslims and they made the wrong assumption that because their methods of recruitment had failed to attract a large number of Muslims and Scheduled Caste candidates, therefore necessarily efficient and sufficient number of Muslims and Scheduled Castes were not available. That was illogical and fallacious.

I then proceeded to discuss the matter with my colleagues and we came to the conclusion that there should be a committee to advise the appointing authorities regarding the matter of selection of candidates. I will not take

up the time of the House by reading from papers. But, as the House knows, the Controller took up the position that according to section 4 of the Ordinance itself and rule 5(*i*) of the Rules he had the authority to make appointments in his discretion and therefore the appointment of a committee for supervision or even for advice would be in derogation of the Act and the Rules and would, to that extent, be *ultra vires*. He said that if Government wanted to have a committee of that kind, the Ordinance should be amended and the Rules should be amended also.

Sir, without going into any discussion of that question, we pointed out to the appointing authorities that we were not insisting on a committee of inspection or supervision, but we wanted that the Communal Ratio Rules should be observed.

Sir, may I at this stage tell the House that we also did our best to impress upon the appointing authorities to slow down recruitment till this question had been considered by Government and finally decided?

Now, Sir, in the meantime I tried to find out suitable candidates among the Muslims and Scheduled Castes and it is true that I sent a number of candidates—Muslims as well as Scheduled Castes—to the appointing authorities in order that they might be able to make a selection and I wish to declare here emphatically—some of the names appeared in the document itself and other names can be found out on scrutiny or by investigation—that not one of the candidates that I recommended was either a friend or a relative; many of these were young men whom I had never seen before in my life. I only sent them on because I considered that they were fit and efficient and that, therefore, their services might be utilised by the appointing authorities. Some of these candidates were appointed, many were rejected, and there again I consider, on most insufficient grounds.

Now, Sir, this is not the first time that the charge has been laid that subordinate officials do not realise the importance of the observance of communal ratio in the matter of appointments in public services. Some of them—specially the seniormost members of the services who landed in India in olden days when autocracy prevailed and long before democracy had been introduced—go their own way which to our mind at the present moment seems to be extremely peculiar. (Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: We made them realise.) You did not, Sir, I know. Mr. Suhrawardy says that we made them realise in the last Cabinet. May I point out to the House that when we were members of the old Government together, officials in the mufassal frequently ignored the Communal Ratio Rules? My friend Mr. Rasik Lal Biswas is responsible for at least a hundred questions in which he pointed out that the claims of Scheduled Castes had been ignored. They are in the records of proceedings. There were questions put even by our supporters as well as members of the Opposition that in many matters the Communal Ratio Rules had not been observed. Year before last I remember questions were put regarding the appointment of Muslims and Scheduled Castes in posts for settlement operations in Bakarganj and Faridpur districts. In these cases thousands of appointments had been made and the Communal Ratio Rules were alleged not to have been observed.

Now, Sir, I do not justify the non-observance, but I am pointing out that there are officers who are difficult to deal with, who do not realise our difficulties and who do not realise the justice of the Communal Ratio Rules framed by Government.

But as regards the Rules themselves, Government have always insisted that the Communal Ratio Rules should be given effect to, subject always to the overriding necessity of efficiency. We agreed to that because, as has been so emphatically said by my friends Dr. Mookerjee and Mr. Basu, the Muslim community and even the Scheduled Castes community have reached a stage of advancement when efficient men from every point of view can be found in large numbers from both these communities. (A voice from the Opposition Benches: Ha! Ha!) It is not a question of Ha! Ha! It is a question of fact and if you challenge that fact better get up and say "in my opinion, efficient Muslims are not available". (Mr. YUSUF ALI CHOUDHURY: What is the result?) The result I will show.

Now, Sir, the permanent officials failed to carry out the orders of Government. Sir Nazimuddin is my *guru* because he had been for four years and a half in charge of the Home Department. I have been here only for a few months and I have been taken as a sleeping partner and not as an active Minister as Sir Nazimuddin who had to run away to Hazaribagh during the Dacca riots. But I can remind Sir Nazimuddin that it is not possible to deal——

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: On a point of order, Sir. Is the Hon'ble Chief Minister entitled to make a deliberate false statement that Sir Nazimuddin ran away when the Dacca riots took place previously?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is impossible for me to judge whether a statement is false or not. I cannot judge it now.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, when the Hon'ble Chief Minister made that statement against the Leader of the Opposition, he was attributing motive. Is the Hon'ble Chief Minister entitled to attribute motive to a member of this House?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not for you to challenge that. It is for the Leader of the Opposition whose name was referred to by the Hon'ble the Leader of the House and it is up to him to rise and say, by way of personal explanation, that it is not correct.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I will explain after his speech is finished.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I withdraw that expression. (Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: It is a lie.) Never in my life have I told a deliberate lie. I was only bearing a secret in my bosom and never did I give it out.

May I remind Sir Nazimuddin that it is not a very easy thing to deal with permanent officials specially when they are members of some of the Imperial Services.

There have been before this Kulti shooting, Kaliganj shooting, and Murapara shooting. What punishment did he mete out to the people who shot down the Muslims? What punishment did he mete out to the officials in Dacca when charges were being openly made that the Muslims were being slaughtered.

Now, Sir, I am on a better ground today. I do not think that the case for any punishment has arisen at all. There is a very simple solution, a solution which has been suggested by Sir Henry Birkmyre himself without knowing really what Government had decided to do. About two months ago we found that there were two courses open to us. As has been suggested by Sir Nazimuddin we could have applied rule 13 of the Communal Ratio Rules rigorously and asked the appointing authorities to discharge all the men appointed and appoint Muslims and Scheduled Castes in the vacancies, 50 per cent. in the case of Muslims and 15 per cent. in the case of Scheduled Castes, according to the Communal Ratio Rules. At one time I thought that this course should be adopted, but I found that the A.R.P. services are essential services requiring in many cases technical qualifications, and here we had thousands of young men who are already trained. In the first place, it would have created a public uproar if thousands of young men after having such a training had been turned out of office for no fault of theirs. If these young men had been appointed in contravention of the rules, that was no fault of theirs. Therefore we held that it would not be wise to replace experienced men by thousands of inexperienced young men. Therefore that procedure did not commend itself to us. What we did was that we explored all the avenues of further employment and the Government of India and the Bengal Government who between themselves pay for these posts have agreed to the immediate appointment of a large number of young men in various A.R.P. services. (Cries of chaprasis and Baburchis from the Opposition Benches.) Now instructions have been given by Government (and those instructions will be strictly carried out) that about a thousand appointments that will be made cent. per cent. will go to the Muslims and the Scheduled Castes. Moreover, I have been permitted to make this announcement by not merely my Hindu colleagues in the Cabinet, but by other Hindu friends who are supporting me in the Progressive Coalition Party. These things have been done in consultation with Mr. Hands and he has agreed to carry out these instructions of the Government.

Now, Sir, let me remind the House that in a very short time——

(At this stage the blue light was lit.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hope you will be as brief as possible and finish your speech in two or three minutes.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I shall be brief.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, may I ask through you whether the appointments will be in all grades?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is a pertinent question. The appointments will be made in some grades.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: A further announcement which I have to make is this: We propose to appoint a committee of Muslims and Scheduled Castes, and I would invite the honourable members of the Opposition if they like to be in the committee to see how far the rules are carried out. Thirdly, the appointing authorities will be asked to submit to the Government a report every week, showing the vacancies that have occurred and the manner in which they have been filled up. I have every confidence that in the very near future the Muslims and the Scheduled Castes will be in a position to reach their legitimate quota. It is certainly late, but still it is better to be late than never.

Now, Sir, taunting remarks have been made about the European community and our relations with the European community. May I point out to the House that we fully appreciate the position of the European community and although we value their votes very much, they do not determine the political position of the House in anyway. We know that so long as we can carry on the administration—at present helping the war efforts, improving the war efforts, carrying on the administration in such a way as not to allow law and justice to break down,—so long as we can take effective measures for the maintenance of peace and tranquillity, we will be not merely entitled, but we can justly look forward to their help and support. The moment we fall from that ideal, I know that they will refuse to lend their support. They do not look to the Ministers; they look to the policy which the Ministers are pursuing. One thing that is clear now is that the present Ministers were not responsible for these appointments. They have done their best to rectify the mistakes which have been committed and to give satisfaction to the Muslims and the Scheduled Castes. (Interruptions.) I know it is impossible, it is hopeless to expect a fair hearing from the members of the Opposition. Their mind is rankling under a sense of grievous wrong of disappointment. They cannot bear that their faults should be exposed. Let me remind them that last night and the night before they made strenuous efforts to win over our members, but I must say that not one member is going to vote against us. I would request them not to waste petrol. Our members are firm. (Laughter from the Progressive Party.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will have to decide one point of order raised by Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi. I gave my ruling that the word "foreigner", was unparliamentary. I have got the proceedings now and I will request Mr. Badrudduja to withdraw that expression.

Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when my esteemed friend Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi was throwing out a challenge——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not make any speech.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: The expression must be withdrawn.

Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA: I will have no hesitation in withdrawing words that might have offended my esteemed friend.

But, Sir, I stand on a point of explanation. My friend opposite wanted to throw out a challenge to all members belonging to the Progressive Assembly Party. That was not in the spirit of a true Muslim. That was exactly why I accepted the challenge. I withdraw, Sir, now every word that I said. I am extremely sorry if I have given any offence to my friend.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I also on that day gave a ruling that it would be unparliamentary to throw out any challenge to any member. I hope the members would note that.

With regard to the speech of Babu Narendra Narayan Chakrabarti I find that there is no objectionable aspersion cast in the statement he made. He said "মুখরোচক কথা বলে capturing the imagination of fools" এছাড়া আর কোন কথা নেই।

In order to clarify the point I shall ask Babu Narendra Narayan Chakrabarti to say whether he has characterised the whole Muslim community as fools or not.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRAVARTI: সে রকম দুষ্ট অভিসন্ধি-মূলক কোন কথা আমার মুখ দিয়ে বেরোবে অসম্ভব।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House should accept the explanation given by him.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, may I remind you of the promise you made to get an explanation of the words *Khudai Bulls* from the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur of Dacca?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall do so later on.

The motion of Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy that this Assembly is of opinion that the non-application by Government of the Communal Ratio Rules to the appointments made in the various paid A.R.P. services and the Fire-fighting Services, resulting in the almost complete exclusion of Muslims and the Scheduled Castes from those services should be disapproved was then put and a division demanded.

(When the division bells were ringing.)

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, after the division is over you may adjourn the House. I want to bring to your notice that there are still other motions standing. We have taken two days to discuss one motion. As I

stated the other day these motions vitally affect the safety of the Province. If you want I can speak after the division bell stops ringing. Before you adjourn the House I want to raise this question.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I quite appreciate your point. You made it clear in your introductory speech the other day that you wanted time. It is for the Home Minister to say whether he is prepared to give more time or not.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: That is why I have raised this question. All these important resolutions are pending and they vitally affect the safety of the Province. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has reminded us that there is a war on and we are threatened with danger. The questions that we are raising affect the safety of the people of the Province.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Chief Minister will make a statement after the division.

Division was then taken with the following result:—

AYES—45.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza.
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Latif Biswas, Maulvi.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed (Noakhali).
Abdul Motaleb Malik, Dr.
Abdulla-al Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.
Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr.
Abdur Raschid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdus Shahood, Maulvi Md.
Abul Hasim, Maulvi.
Abul Hosain Ahmed, Mr.
Abul Masud, Kazi.
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hosain, Mr.
Alifazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Aulad Hosain Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Farhad Raza Chowdhury, Mr. M.
Farhat Bano Khanam, Begum.
Fazlul Qundir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Mymensingh).
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib.
Ispahani, Mr. A. H., M.B.E.
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Maulvi (Tippera).
Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed.
Nasrullah, Nawabzada K.
Nazimuddin Khwaja Sir, K.C.I.E.
Noorudin, Mr. K.
Sahebe-Alam, Mr. Syed.
Salim, Mr. S. A.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S.
Tamizuddin Khan, Mr.
Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr.
Zahur Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi.

NOES—106.

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mia.
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi (Mymensingh).
Abdul Jabbar Paiwan, Mr. Md.
Abdul Majid, Maulvi (Mymensingh).
Abdul Wahab Khan, Mr.
Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Shah (Rangpur).
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abu Hosain Sarkar, Maulvi.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Acharyya Choudhury, Maharaja Sashi Kanta, of Muktagacha, Mymensingh.
Ahmed Ali Enayetpuri, Khan Bahadur Maulana.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md.
Anwarul Azim, Khan Bahadur Md.
Asimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Azahar Ali, Maulvi.
Badruddoja, Mr. Syed.
Banerjee, the Hon'ble Mr. Pramatha Nath.
Barat Ali, Mr. Md.
Barma, Babu Prombari.
Barma, Mr. Puspajit.
Barman, Babu Shyama Prosad.
Barman, the Hon'ble Mr. Upendra Nath.
Basu, the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Bhowmik, Mr. Gobinda Chandra.
Biswas, Babu Lakshmi Narayan.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Chakraborty, Babu Narendra Narayan.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirti Bhusan.
Das, Mr. Monmohan.
Dass, Babu Debendra Nath.

Das Gupta, Srijut Narendra Nath.
Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira.
Ekbar, Mr. Upendranath.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Fazlul Huq, the Hon'ble Mr. A. K.
Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Golam Rabbani Ahammad, Maulvi.
Gomes, Mr. R. A.
Goswami, Mr. Tulsi Chandra.
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh.
Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Alhadj.
Hasanuzzaman Khan Sahib Maulvi Md.
Hashem Ali Khan, The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi
Hasina Murshed, Mrs., M.B.E.
Hatemally Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kazem Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawan Jah Syed.
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Lahiri, Babu Ashutosh.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Dr. (Bogra).
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal.
Mandal, Mr. Banku Behari.
Mandal Mr. Birat Chandra.
Mandal, Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad.
Manirruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Maqbul Hosain, Mr.
Mohsin Ali, Mr. Md.
Mookerjee, The Hon'ble Dr. Syamaprasad.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi M.
Mozammel Huq, Maulvi Md.
Muhammad Aizal, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Syed.
Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi.
Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi.
Muhammad Sohilman, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Mukerjea, Mr. Taraknath, M.B. E.
Musharruf Hossain, Nawab, Khan Bahadur.
Mustaqawsai Haque, Mr. Syed.
Nandy, Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar.
Nasker, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Pain, Mr. Barada Prosanna.
Paul, Sir Hari Sanker.
Poddar, Mr. Anandilal.
Pramanik, Mr. Tarinicharan.
Raikut, Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Rajibuddin Tarafdar, Maulvi.
amizuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Mr. Paliram.
Roy, Shib Shekhareswar, Kumar.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Safiruddin Ahmed, Haji.
Sanaullah, Dr.
Sen, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Sen, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Sen, Jogesh Chandra, Rai Bahadur.
Shahedali, Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, the Hon'ble Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Thakur, Mr. Pramatha Ranjan.
Tofel Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi Haji.
Waliur Rahman, Maulvi.
Yusuf Mirza.
Zaman, Mr. A. M. A.

The Ayes being 45 and the Noes 108 the motion was lost.

Allotment of extra days.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we also would like more time for the special motions. We want to move our own motion and we feel that the question is of sufficient importance to give another day.

Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: In reply to the general debate the Hon'ble Minister has postponed replying to the various other points raised and also to many points raised in his own statement. He said that he refrained from commenting on the incidents in Calcutta and other recent political matters. Before he makes a statement on those matters we should like to give him an opportunity to hear the views of the members of this House first. He has not had that opportunity. We are also anxious to hear what he has got to say on recent occurrences. I therefore hope that the Hon'ble the Chief Minister and his colleagues will provide ample opportunity for discussing all these matters.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, it is not possible for me to make a statement just at the present moment. I will announce our decision tomorrow.

Adjournment.

It being 11-50 a.m., the House was adjourned till 8-45 a.m. on Thursday, the 24th September, 1942, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

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